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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Santa Monica farmers market crash: An 87-year-old man whose car plowed into a Santa Monica farmers market last year, killing 10 people, was ordered Wednesday to stand trial for manslaughter.

George Russell Weller will be tried on 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, a Los Angeles County judge ruled.

The Santa Monica man is to be arraigned on Nov. 17. Weller, who has pleaded not guilty, could be sentenced to up to 18 years in prison if convicted of all charges.

Car-attack case: The attorney for a woman convicted of running over her cheating husband is accused of overcharging her during her murder trial.

Lawyer George Pamblum never provided former Friendswood dentist Clara Harris detailed invoices for how he was using extra funds she paid, according to papers filed in the lawsuit Wednesday.

Pamblum, according to the filings in Harris County civil court, initially required that Harris pay a \$75,000 fee for representing her at the trial court level.

Michael Jackson case: A judge on Thursday rejected a defense effort to remove the district attorney in the Michael Jackson child molestation case on the grounds that the pop star had been the victim of an overzealous prosecution.

Judge Rodney Melville said the law is clear that the only way he could remove District Attorney Tom Sneddon and his office is "if a conflict existed where the defendant could not receive a fair trial." He said no such conflict existed. "I believe he has not been excessively zealous and has not threatened the integrity of the case to this point," the judge said of the prosecutor.

World

Chechen operations: A top Chechen security official threatened Thursday to conduct new anti-terrorist military operations in the rugged Pankisi Gorge, across the border in neighboring Georgia.

Ramzan Kadyrov, who controls a widely feared security force in war-ravaged Chechnya, said Georgia must establish order in the border region, according to the Interfax news agency.

U.N. hostages in Afghanistan: Militants claiming to hold three U.N. hostages said Thursday that talks on their demands, including the release of Taliban prisoners, had broken down, and that according to the Interfax news agency.



AP

Japan earthquake: This student takes shelter under her desk at an elementary school in Tokamachi, Japan, on Thursday following a strong earthquake. Northern Japan is still recovering from last month's magnitude-6.8 quake, the Meteorological Agency said. The latest tremor led to at least one injury. More aftershocks are expected, the agency said. Also Thursday, another victim of last month's quake died, bringing the death toll to 39.

whether to kill the trio.

The Jaish-al-Muslimeen, a shadowy Taliban splinter group, told The AP that Irish-British hostage Annetta Flanagan was "seriously ill" because of the strain of her captivity, and all three were sickened by a diet of little more than cookies.

A purported commander for the group said U.N. and Afghan officials contacted them by telephone Thursday but were "not ready for negotiations."

Ex-Israeli prime minister Barak: Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak announced Thursday he will compete for the leadership of the opposition Labor Party and wants to be its candidate for prime minister in the next election.

Barak's office issued a statement that was published by Israeli media. His aides did not return telephone messages.

Senior Labor officials criticized his comeback attempt, saying Barak had made many mistakes in his short term, which lasted from 1999-2001.

Ivory Coast cease-fire: Government warplanes bombed the largest city in Ivory Coast's rebel-held north Thursday, breaking a

more than year-old cease-fire in what a government commander called a major drive to reunite the war-divided West African nation.

Air raids on the northern rebel stronghold of Bouake threatened an all-out return to Ivory Coast's civil war — ended by a 2003 peace deal after nine months of fighting. The war left Ivory Coast split in two, with rebels controlling the north.

Union Carbide disaster cleanup: Experts on Thursday urged the removal of thousands of tons of toxic waste from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in central India where a devastating gas leak killed 15,000 people 20 years ago.

The gas leak at the Union Carbide plant in Madhya Pradesh state capital, Bhopal, was one of the world's worst industrial accidents.

At a seminar on the disaster, experts said nearly 25,000 tons of toxic waste remain inside the factory since it stopped operations on December 4, 1984 — a day after lethal methyl isocyanate gas leaked into the atmosphere, killing thousands of people and contaminating local water and soil.

Gulf War Syndrome: Britain is testing the health of thousands of soldiers who fought in Iraq, defense officials said Thursday, as research into Gulf War illnesses continues.

The Ministry of Defense has commissioned specialists to survey 7,700 soldiers who took part in the March 2003 Iraq invasion. The troops have been asked to fill out detailed questionnaires on their physical and psychological health, and will be compared against a control group of 10,000 soldiers who did not take part in the invasion.

A preliminary report by the King's Center for Military Health Research is expected in April 2005.

Business

Enron collapse convictions: Four former Merrill Lynch & Co. executives and a former midlevel Enron Corp. finance executive have been convicted of conspiracy and fraud in first criminal trial of Enron and Wall Street executives for their role in the energy company's 2001 collapse. The five men were convicted Wednesday of helping push through a bogus year-end 1999 sale of interest in floating power plant barges to the brokerage so Enron could appear to have met earnings targets.

But the jury acquitted a former in-house Enron accountant, Sheila Kahanek, who testified she consistently opposed a verbal promise that the government contended made the deal a loan — that Enron would resell or buy back Merrill's interest within six months.

Stories and photos by The Associated Press

"The photo
is actually
woven
into the
blanket
so wash
after wash
the image
will never
fade."

Family

Baby
Toddler
Mom&Dad
Grandma&Gramps



Pets

Dog
Horse
Cat
Bird



Holidays

Mother's Day
Father's Day
Christmas
Valentine's Day

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memories FOREVER

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Compensation for storm damage available

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — With a typhoon seemingly churning toward Japan every week this season, base legal officials across the Pacific say receiving government reimbursement for storm-damaged personal property is possible — but recommend private renter's insurance as a more reliable way to cover losses, even for on-base residents.

This year, more than any in recent memory, weather damage to personal property seems possible; 10 typhoons have hit Japan so far this season.

That contrasts to 2.6, the yearly average from 1951 through 2003, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

South Korea largely has been spared from typhoons in recent years, although earlier this summer, Typhoon Megi swept across the southern part of the country, causing minor damage to installations and cities.

Staff Sgt. Edward Luna, a legal assistance official at Iwakuni Ma-

rine Corps Air Station, said 20 claims were filed for personal property damages after Typhoon Songda on Sept. 8.

"Two involve personal vehicles. One had the paint damaged because of the typhoon and the other had broken windows, which allowed water into the car and now mildew in the interior," Luna said. "I think those are reasonable claims."

The Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act states that all servicemembers' and civilian employees' property damaged or destroyed by harsh weather may be eligible for repair or replacement, said Luna and Petty Officer 1st Class Brian McKie, a Sasebo Naval Base legalman.

"It only covers damage to personal property," Luna said. "It does not cover damage to land, buildings and permanent fixtures and it must be damaged in relation to a person's military service or employment."

Luna said the "use or possession" of the damaged property

Filing a government claim

When filing a government claim you will need the following:

- DD Form 1842: Claims for loss of or damage to personal property incident to service.
- DD Form 1844: List of property and claims analysis chart.
- Electronic funds transfer form.
- Photos.
- Two estimates of repair for repairable items.
- Verification of replacement price — original receipts from the BX, catalog or Internet prices, etc.
- Title, military registration and insurance paperwork for all vehicle claims.

— Staff reports

must have been reasonable, useful or proper. "For example, if you bought and own the picnic table in the back yard of your housing unit and it is blown around and broken due to a typhoon, but you had done nothing to secure the picnic furniture during the warning period before the typhoon, that is not reasonable," McKie said.

"If you tied it down as recommended, and the damage still occurs, then it could be covered," he said. If property damage occurs entirely or in part because of the owner's negligence, the claim is denied.

A recent Marine Corps news report used an example to illustrate the difference.

"It is reasonable to store a radio in your wall locker; however, storing a \$5,000 stereo system in the wall locker is probably not," wrote Marine Corps 1st Lt. Adam Workman, a legal services officer in Iwakuni. "Whether the use or possession was reasonable, useful or proper is a judgment call that will be made by the adjudicating official."

If all conditions for reimbursement are met, the money given

for the damaged or lost property is based on repair estimates, or replacement estimates minus depreciation if repair is impossible. If repairs already have been made, receipts are required.

But even with some government protection, Luna and McKie said, buying private rental insurance remains the best option for covering personal property.

"I bought mine directly from my insurance company," Navy Lt. Randy Vavra, an officer in charge of Sasebo's Navy Legal Service Office, said Thursday.

"And most major insurance companies offer various renter's insurance plans," he added. "In any case, the cost is not very high compared to the piece of mind it provides."

Vavra said insuring specific objects also is possible. "I also have insurance to cover my wife's jewelry," he said. "It's just a really good option to look into."

Call your base legal services center for more information.

Joseph Giordano contributed to this report.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@patriots.osd.mil

Viking squadron folds up its wings

With S-3Bs slated for retirement, Fighting Redtails off to new jobs

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

Thirteen years ago, the S-3B Viking aircraft was called the most advanced anti-submarine warfare and sea control platform in history.

Now, it's history. The former cornerstone of all carrier operations and strike capabilities is defunct. As a result, Chester, Finch, Whip and the rest of Sea Control Squadron 21, the Fighting Redtails, who flew Vikings from the USS Kitty Hawk's deck, are out of work.

The squadron — formed in 1945 and based at Atsugi Naval Air Facility since 1991, when it joined Carrier Air Wing 5 — is being disestablished. Only ships are decommissioned, but it amounts to the same thing.

"There is a little loss," said Cmdr. Paul "Chester" Foster, squadron executive officer. "But you have to understand, if you look at the history of the Navy, the Navy's not tied to airplanes.... I'm not really sad because the Navy is moving in the right direction. It's time for our airplane to go away."

Conceived in the 1950s and built in the 1970s during the Cold War's height, the Vikings' foremost mission was to destroy submarines. Later, they were reconfigured for surface warfare and surveillance, search-and-rescue and refueling.

And it was in a Viking that President Bush landed on the USS Abraham Lincoln off California's coast, to deliver his "mission accomplished" speech announcing the end of major combat in the 2003 Iraq invasion. The four-seater was chosen because, according to CNN, it has the safest flight record in the Navy's jet fleet.

The Viking's glamour — never even approaching the F-14 Tomcat — dimmed even more as the planes became primarily aerial gas tankers.

But, Foster said, "It's a beautiful airplane if you look at it long enough — it's not just a jet. It's a very functional airplane."

A ceremony to mark the squadron's end was held Thursday at Atsugi. Now its 249 people will be heading to new jobs.

Lt. Cmdr. John Bernard, Kitty Hawk strike group spokesman, said in September that a new



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

An S-3B Viking folds its wings on the flight deck of the USS Theodore Roosevelt in 1999. Originally conceived to destroy submarines, the Viking was later reconfigured for what became its primary mission of refueling.

squadron of former Hornet fighters retrained to fly Super Hornets would assume the Vikings' refueling mission.

All 225 of the squadron's enlisted people got jobs in other commands — "ship, shore... a couple of guys are retiring," Foster said. Of the pilots, only two will remain to fly the Super Hornet; two are learning to fly F/A-18s, electronic warfare aircraft; several others are going to shore duty as flight instructors. "About two years into shore duty, I'd say most of our officers will transition to a different airplane," Foster said.

Six of the squadron's nine airplanes already are gone. In spring, two were flown to San Diego. Three others were flown to Guam and aboard the USS Stennis for a money-saving cruise back to San Diego.

And after four Stennis aviators were killed when their S-3B Viking crashed onto Kila Iima in August, the Redtails sent their best plane to the Stennis in tribute.

The three remaining Vikings, the plane known affectionately as

"the Hoover," for its vacuum-cleaner noise ("You get a big whoop-whoop sound," Foster said) will be flown to the United States later this month.

Four of the squadron's nine Vikings will be mothballed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz.; the other five will return to the fleet.

So will Foster, who's been flying Vikings since 1989. He's headed for three more years at a Viking squadron in San Diego. "It's a great deal and I'm very fortunate," he said. The S-3B Viking is expected to be retired Navywide within the next five years.

Lt. Jonathan "Finch" Welsh said, "Japan has been fun but it's time to go home. Flying on the boat is fun, living on the boat is not." Like a half-dozen others in the squadron, he's to be a flight instructor in Pensacola, Fla.

Lt. Cmdr. Steve "Whip" Blasch, a naval flight officer, is to attend the Naval War College in Rhode Island. "Coming off sea duty, it's the perfect place to go and kind of see where your career goes from there," he said.



JOSHUA MILLAGE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sea Control Squadron 21 Commanding Officer David A. Mayo salutes Thursday during the national anthem at the squadron's disestablishment ceremony at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan.

Still, he said, the S-3 community is a golden time. "Almost everyone," he said, "the flight instructors I had really helped you along. Some of the fighter community — when I was a student, the saying was 'They eat their young' — they really hammer their guys."

In a way, Blasch said, right now is a golden time. "Almost everyone has known their next assignment since June and has had time to unwind and prepare. And numerous social occasions have been scheduled, the traditional events such as changes of command and retirements that they often missed in the past."

"We're just riding it out," he said. "Things don't end.... Careers don't end. Life goes on. It is the closing of an era but it's also an extremely exciting time."

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomery@patriots.osd.mil

Correction

The third-place team in an Oct. 31 article on the annual Battle Skills Competition was misidentified. The team from III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group took third place in the competition.

DLA chief: Supply agency to up efficiency

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Defense Logistics Agency director dropped by Yokota on Tuesday to discuss the upcoming launch of a \$741 million world-class information-technology system aimed at revamping DLA efficiency standards.

Vice Adm. Keith W. Lippert spoke to a group of Yokota "loggies" during an Officers Club luncheon. He's on an annual tour of Pacific installations, meeting with DLA personnel and major customers.

"We come out here periodically just to see how they're doing and how we can improve things," said Lippert, who became the DLA's 14th director in July 2001.

Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., DLA is responsible for providing the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and other federal agencies with a range of sup-

plies and services, including fuel, subsistence, clothing and spare parts for military maintenance. It manages about 5.2 million items and receives 45,000 requests a day for materiel.

With more than 21,000 civilians and 528 military billets — including 82 in the Air Force — the DLA has a presence in 28 countries and every state except Iowa and Vermont.

"It's big business no matter how you look at it," Lippert said. "Four years ago, the Air Force was the worst supported of all the services. They have slow-moving aviation materials and old platforms. But we've worked on improving the overall talent of the officers and enlisted members assigned to DLA. We've not only improved our support of the Air Force but we've worked to get better at everything we do."

The Navy remains DLA's top recipient, he added, followed by the Air Force, Army and Marines.

Supporting the war-fighter is the agency's primary focus, Lippert said. The Army and Air Force hit the agency, which spent \$1 billion preparing for Operation Iraqi Freedom, with a record number of requisitions in August.

"We've initiated a whole series of changes to improve how we supply the troops, and that's mostly because of OIF," Lippert said, adding that troops in Iraq are eating about 350,000 MREs (Meals, Ready to Eat) a day.

The agency emphasizes performance-based contracting, Lippert said, which has led to military-wide advances in distribution. The group deals with about 30,000 suppliers worldwide.

"We use prime vendor contracts, which are awarded based on performance," he added. "The forces of the marketplace are going to keep us competitive."

Agency transformation is another top priority for DLA officials, who are invest-

ing \$1 billion in 11 initiatives to refine standards toward sharpening efficiency, he said. They're anticipating about \$3 billion in savings from the effort, which began in August 2002, he said. By 2007, they also hope to pass first-ever financial audit.

Lippert said the blueprint's centerpiece is a computer upgrade that will replace the business system now in use. Agency officials said they plan to be online with a new system in January, but putting it fully into use will take years.

"One thing we have to work on is being able to communicate better with each other — all the services," Lippert said. "It's a major deal. We're upgrading the way all operations are done. If there is not passion in your belly for this, don't do it at all, because you're going to fail."

"This is a major acquisition and it'll help us become a world-class supplier for the future."

E-mail Vince Little at: little@stripes.osd.mil

Yokosuka remembers sailor from Kitty Hawk

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A career sailor who spent much of the last six months of his life aboard the USS Kitty Hawk — and died after collapsing there — was memorialized Thursday by crewmates.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jose Gonzales was remembered by some 200 sailors at Thursday's ceremony on the Fleet Theater on the base.

Gonzales, 35, died Monday night at the base hospital about six hours after he was taken off the aircraft intermediate maintenance work center, according to Kitty Hawk officials.

The cause of his death was not released pending autopsy results, said Kitty Hawk spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt. But Gonzales' death occurred from a medical condition and was unrelated to a work injury, DeWalt said.

Gonzales enlisted in the Navy in 1989. Reporting to the Kitty Hawk in May, he was assigned to the aircraft intermediate maintenance department, where he worked as shop supervisor and lead repair technician in the Consolidated Automated Support System shop.

Gonzales is survived by a daughter, Larissa Juarez, and son, Jose Lewis Gonzales Jr., who live with their mother in El Cajon, Calif., DeWalt said, adding that his body is expected to be flown to the United States next week.

As is customary, a member of the Kitty Hawk's crew will accompany Gonzales' remains from Japan to the United States, where Gonzales' family is to receive them. Gonzales was from Buckeye, Ariz.

7th Fleet amphib force commander gets first star

Stars and Stripes



LOWELL WHITMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Vice Adm. Jonathan Greenert, right, congratulates newly promoted Rear Adm. Victor Guillory, center, and his wife, Marquita, after a frocking ceremony aboard the USS Blue Ridge on Thursday. Guillory commands Amphibious Force U.S. Seventh Fleet.

Guillory promoted aboard Blue Ridge

Rear Adm. Victor G. Guillory received his first star during a brief ceremony Thursday aboard the U.S. Seventh Fleet flagship, the USS Blue Ridge.

Vice Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, Seventh Fleet commander, pinned the stars on Guillory in his flag cabin.

"This promotion is recognition of clearly a great performance," Greenert said, "a demonstration of great potential. This is a wonderful transition."

Guillory said, "Most of my career has been aboard ship, from enlisted on up to this point. So I really wanted to be aboard ship for this promotion."

The Blue Ridge was in Okla-

nawa during a scheduled port visit.

The New Orleans native and Naval Academy graduate assumed command of the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed amphibious force on Oct. 1.

He has served as commander of several ships and has several Washington-area assignments in the Bureau of Naval Personnel and Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, where most recently he was the assistant deputy of surface ships.

As commander of Amphibious Force U.S. Seventh Fleet, the new rear admiral is responsible for conducting expeditionary warfare operations to support missions from humanitarian and disaster relief operations to full combat operations.

Quick response



PHOTOS BY KATRINA L. BEELER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A Commander, Naval Forces Japan Regional Fire Department team member, left, rolls a fire hose after a simulated burning building, above, was hosed down during a mass casualty exercise Thursday at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan. The drill, hosted by Atsugi, also involved elements from the U.S. Army at Camp Zama and units from Yokosuka Naval Bases, all in Japan. Local Japanese fire and medical teams also assisted as part of a mutual aid agreement between the two nations.

U.S. jets hit Fallujah ahead of offensive

BY ROBERT H. REID
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. forces pounded parts of Fallujah from the air and ground Thursday, targeting insurgents in a city where American forces were said to be gearing up for a major offensive. Three British soldiers were killed in an attack by guerrillas as they patrolled in central Iraq.

Al-Jazeera television broadcast a threat by an unspecified armed group to strike installations and government buildings if Americans launch an all-out assault on Fallujah. The report was accompanied by a videotape showing about 20 armed men brandishing various weapons, including a truck-mounted machine gun.

The attack that killed the three British soldiers Thursday also left a civilian Iraqi interpreter dead and eight British troops wounded, said Lt. Cmdr. Ahmed Ajala, a British military spokesman in Basra. Six of the wounded soldiers were released from a hospital and the other two were expected to return to their regiment Friday, he said.

The British soldiers were part of an 850-strong unit who were deployed closer to Baghdad last

Rebels threaten to strike oil targets if attack proceeds

week to allow U.S. Marines to reposition in Anbar province, home of guerrilla strongholds of Fallujah, Ramadi, Hit and Husaybah.

Early Thursday, U.S. aircraft fired on several barricaded rebel positions in northeast and southeastern Fallujah, the military said. Later in the day, U.S. artillery batteries fired two to three dozen 155 mm shells at insurgent bastions in the city, the military said.

Insurgents and U.S. forces also clashed briefly Thursday in Ramadi, west of Fallujah, but there were no U.S. casualties, the military added.

The fresh action followed overnight fighting on the southeastern outskirts of Fallujah after insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at Marines. Two insurgents were killed while no U.S. casualties were reported, said Lt. Nathan Braden, of 1st Marine Division. Hospital officials in Fallujah reported three civilians were injured in the overnight shelling.

U.S. forces are preparing for a major offensive in Fallujah, west

of Baghdad, and other Sunni militant strongholds in hopes of curbing the insurgency ahead of January's election.

An Iraqi National Guard patrol was hit Thursday by a car bomb in Iskandariyah, an insurgent hot spot 30 miles south of Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 15, Iraqi hospital officials said.

A suicide car bomber killed three and wounded nine others when his explosive-laden vehicle barreled into the city government offices in Dujail, 46 miles north of the capital, police said.

On Wednesday, a U.S. soldier was killed and another wounded in a roadside bombing 12 miles south of the capital. A suicide driver detonated his vehicle at a checkpoint near Baghdad International Airport, injuring nine Iraqis and forcing U.S. troops to close the main route for hours.

Gunsmen killed a senior Oil Ministry official, Hussein Ali al-Fattal, after he left his house in the Yarmouk district of western Baghdad, police said. Al-Fattal was the general manager of a state-owned company that distributes petroleum byproducts.

The violence served as a grim reminder of Iraq's rapidly deteriorating security situation, which President Bush must address now that he has been re-elected.

On Thursday, Al-Jazeera aired video of three Jordanian truck drivers taken hostage by a militant group calling itself Jaish al-Islam, or Army of Islam. The men appealed to their country to warn its citizens against working with coalition forces in Iraq, Al-Jazeera said, although their voices were not audible on the tape.

They were part of a convoy of seven trucks who came under attack Tuesday near Fallujah, according to an official at the Jordanian Truckers Association. One of the drivers was killed in the attack, two others are still missing and a fourth man escaped, he said.

More than 170 foreigners have been kidnapped and more than 30 of them — including three Americans and a Briton — killed in Iraq since Saddam Hussein's regime fell in April 2003. At least six of the foreigners were beheaded by followers of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant who has sworn allegiance to al-Qaida.

4 Afghan rebels killed

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. troops killed four suspected militants and captured a Taliban commander in one of Afghanistan's most dangerous valleys Thursday, officials said, while an explosion killed four civilians in an attack apparently meant for Afghan troops.

American soldiers entered a compound in Char Cheno district of Uruzgan province before dawn, U.S. spokesman Maj. Mark McCann said, sparking a gunbattle in which four rebels were killed. No Americans were reported injured.

"During the search of the compound, they found a bunch of stuff, killed four anti-coalition militants and detained one who was wounded," McCann said.

The troops discovered weapons including rocket-propelled grenades, he said.

McCann didn't identify the suspects. However, Char Cheno's mayor said the wounded man was a local Taliban commander called Hasham Jan. Jan is not believed to be a senior figure in the hard-line militia.

From The Associated Press

U.S.-issued uniforms selling at Iraq bazaar

AAFES spokesman says some of the items may have been stolen

BY WARD SANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — A bazaar in Baghdad's perilous downtown sells U.S. military uniforms at discount prices.

One shop displayed about 40 U.S. desert camouflage uniforms, along with beige boots, headgear and backpacks. At least one backpack still had an Army and Air Force Exchange Service tag affixed to it.

An entire outfit, boots and backpack included, could be had for about \$55 — about half the original cost of legitimate boots alone.

The sales take on a sinister air considering the deaths of about 30 members of the Iraqi National Guard found shot in the head, execution-style, on Oct. 24 some 95 miles east of the capital. The unarmed troops, destined for home leave, had apparently stopped at a checkpoint manned by terrorists dressed as police, officials have said.

The Baghdad market also sold local uniforms of the same type issued to the executed Iraqis.

A U.S. military spokesman, Tech. Sgt. Eric Grill, said he was unaware the uniforms were circulating, but would alert the chain of command.

Another spokesman, Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, said military items routinely appear in local markets abroad. He said it was no different at his previous post in the Far East.

"Things destined for AAFES or bought by servicemembers do show up on local economies," Boylan said. "Sometimes they're thrown away. Sometimes they're knockoffs."

He said Internet sites sold similar equipment, as did surplus stores in the United States.

An AAFES spokesman, Maj. Dave Accetta, said some of the items may have been stolen from exchange trucks or convoy shipments, but had no details regarding the merchandise in Iraq. One exchange employee in Iraq said this past summer, a single such robbery resulted in the loss of \$85,000 in merchandise.

The bazaar hawking the uniforms, Bab Al Sharji, is dubbed a "thieves market" by locals. Customers watch their wallets while perusing the wares. The video vendor sells copies of beheadings of foreigners in Fallujah alongside pornography. The optics vendor sells U.S. military night-vision equipment.

The precise origin of the U.S. uniforms was unclear. Some had no patches. At least one was



U.S. military-style uniforms such as this are sold at Baghdad's dangerous downtown bazaar. This uniform, including a new Army and Air Force Exchange Service backpack, were all purchased for about \$55.

marked as it had originated with the Kuwaiti military, but its inside tag showed it was otherwise identical to U.S. issue. Hats and trousers, too, were of standard American design. Boots looked like U.S. desert models, but were tagged with a Middle

Eastern company name. A Bugout Gear Frig Bag backpack was clearly marked as new merchandise intended for sale at an AAFES base store.

The uniform vendor said many of his items are purchased by

Kurds. When asked where his military outfits originate, the salesman was more vague.

"There are people supplying this stuff to us," he said.

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.strips.osd.mil



U.S. Marines train in a former Iraqi army barracks Thursday outside Fallujah, Iraq, ahead of a possible offensive the region.

Bush facing new Iraq questions

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It could be a tough next four years in Iraq for President Bush, depending in part on the outcome of a planned U.S. attack on the insurgents' stronghold at Fallujah. Will a renewed U.S. offensive break the back of the insurgency? Hungary's announcement Wednesday that it won't keep its troops in Iraq beyond next March underscores another uncertainty: Whether international support for the war, military or otherwise, will grow or shrink.

The answers to those questions will go a long way in determining when the Bush administration might be able to substantially reduce the number of U.S. troops in Iraq — and foresee an end to its huge financial investment — without risking Iraq's collapse into civil war.

"This is a George Bush project, and it's going to stay that way," said Michael O'Hanlon, a military analyst at the Brookings Institution. He expects little new help from other nations, and thinks Bush will soon begin talking more openly about an Iraq exit strategy.

In his victory speech Wednesday, Bush mentioned bringing the troops home.

"We'll help the emerging democracies of Iraq and Afghanistan so they can grow in strength and defend their freedom, and then our servicemen and -women will come home with the honor they have earned," the president said.

Bush said throughout the election campaign that if given a second term he intended to remain on the same course in Iraq, hoping to stabilize the country despite a U.S. death toll that already exceeds 1,100 and has averaged two American deaths every day since an interim Iraqi government was installed in late June.

The United States has about 142,000 troops in Iraq now, roughly the same as one year ago.

The Pentagon recently raised

the possibility of reducing that number after Iraq holds its first elections in January, assuming the Pentagon can increase the ranks of U.S.-trained Iraqi troops.

A fresh contingent of U.S. forces will enter Iraq over the coming few months, replacing troops who are completing their one-year tours. In a reminder of the unexpected duration of this war and the strain it has placed on the military, the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which fought the opening stages of the war in 2003, is going back for a second tour.

Getting within sight of an end to U.S. military involvement has been stalled by at least two problems Bush did not anticipate when he launched the March 2003 invasion of Iraq: A creative, shadowy and tenacious insurgency, and setbacks in building a reliable Iraqi security force.

Those two issues have important military dimensions. But they cannot be overcome by the use of force alone, says Army Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, who was intelligence chief for the U.S. military command in Baghdad during an earlier phase of the war. She says more economic, political and information efforts are needed to complement the role of U.S. and coalition troops.

Fast and other senior officers have said the United States and its coalition partners must communicate more clearly to ordinary Iraqis that they must stand up to the insurgents, take responsibility for rebuilding their own country and realize the United States cannot do it for them.

"It's as much about perception as it is about [military] wins and losses on the ground," Fast told a recent Army conference. In a similar vein, O'Hanlon of the Brookings Institution said: "Either one — Bush or Kerry — despite all this campaign talk about staying the course, would have had to recognize pretty soon that our presence in Iraq is part of the problem. It's necessary, but it's also part of the problem. Therefore, a strategy to get out is actually useful, and it's not a sign of weakness."

Countries look at pulling out of Iraq after elections in '05

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — President Bush's "coalition of the willing" in Iraq isn't quite so willing any more.

In a blow to U.S. efforts to keep countries from deserting the multinational force, Hungary said this week it won't keep troops there beyond March 31. The Czechs plan to pull out by the end of February, the Dutch by the end of March, and Japan is feeling pressure to withdraw.

There's no mad scramble to leave, but that could change after Iraq holds elections in January and nations feel their obligations have ended.

"We should never have sent troops to Iraq. Bringing them back now is already too late," Janos Fekete, a Budapest shopkeeper, said Thursday.

Key allies said this week they'll hold firm in Iraq. Britain said Hungary's decision would not prompt a rethink, and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Thursday his country's 3,000 troops will stay for as long as the Iraqi government wants. Staying on, he said, was part of Italy's duty in "defending democracy in the world."

Denmark said its 501 troops in the southern Iraqi port city of Basra also will stay as long as needed, and Romania is even considering bolstering its 730-member force for the elections.

Nevertheless, Hungary's announcement that it won't keep its 300 non-combat soldiers in Iraq beyond the end of March dealt a blow to the coalition.

The ex-communist country and many of its neighbors across the former East Bloc have been steadfast in their commitment to the force, in part out of gratitude for U.S. support during the Cold War and help in joining the European Union and NATO.

Early last year, Hungary declared it would stay in Iraq through the end of 2004 as a message to the insurgents targeting U.S.-led forces.

Hungary's new prime minister, Ferenc Gyurcsany, says he doesn't believe in pre-emptive war and has been receptive to public calls for a withdrawal despite an Iraqi request that the troops stay another year. Polls show 60 percent of Hungarians want them home now.

Parliament next week will debate his proposal to extend the troops' mandate, which expires Dec. 31, by three months. But that would require a two-thirds majority vote, and the country's main opposition party has said it will consider an extension only if the troops are given a U.N. mandate to stay.

"Right now, we feel there are more arguments in favor of bringing the troops home," Mihály Varga, a prominent Hungarian opposition leader and former finance minister, told The Associated Press.

If lawmakers reject the extension, which seems likely, Hungary's troops could be on their way home by New Year's Day.

In Washington, State Department Richard Boucher played down the threat of significant drawdowns or pullouts.

The administration has worked to preserve and expand the coalition since Spain withdrew its 1,300 troops earlier this year.

"It's too early now to predict a mass exodus or departure," Boucher said.

For many Japanese, mourning the beheading this week of a 24-year-old Japanese backpacker slain by militants in Iraq, the situation is simply too dangerous.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has been beset by fresh calls for a pullout of his country's 500 troops from the opposition, which blames his pro-U.S. policy for the slaying.



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IN THE WORLD

Associates say Arafat's condition grave

By LARA SUKHIAN
The Associated Press

PARIS — A gravely ill Yasser Arafat reportedly slipped into a coma and anxious Palestinian officials held an emergency meeting Thursday on how to prevent unrest while their 75-year-old leader was fighting for his life.

A swirl of reports that Arafat died were quashed by doctors at a French military hospital, who said he was alive. Arafat's aides, however, said his condition was very serious.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia said there had been no change in Arafat's condition. Palestinian officials said Arafat was in a coma in the intensive care unit.

Arafat's chief of staff, Ramzi Khouri, called an Associated Press reporter from Paris and told him: "I am standing next to the president's bed, he is in grave condition."

Arafat's personal physician, Dr. Ashraf Kurdi, told Israel TV's Channel 7 that Arafat was still alive.

There also were media reports that Arafat had died or was brain dead. The Israeli network report-

ed that Arafat was brain dead but remained on life support.

Kurdi told Dubai-based Al-Arabiya TV that a brain scan showed that Arafat had not suffered a hemorrhage or stroke.

"Arafat has no type of brain death," Kurdi told Al-Arabiya.

Anxious Palestinian leaders held an emergency meeting in the West Bank on Thursday. Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said top officials were in touch with Arafat's hospital every 30 minutes to check on his condition.

A prolonged Arafat incapacitation — or death — could have profound impact on the Middle East. There are fears of unrest among Palestinian factions, which Arafat, viewed as a national symbol by even some who opposed him, was largely able to prevent.

On the other hand, Israel and the United States have in recent years shunned Arafat as a terrorist and an obstacle to peace, and his replacement by a new leadership could open the door to renewed peace talks. Such a scenario could affect Israel's current plans to pull soldiers and settlers out of the Gaza Strip in a unilateral move not coordinated with the Palestinians.



Palestinian youths hold posters of Yasser Arafat as they chant slogans, during a rally in support of the Palestinian leader in Gaza City on Thursday. Palestinian leaders held emergency meetings Thursday after Yasser Arafat was moved to the intensive care unit at a French military hospital.

There is concern in Israel about the fallout from Arafat's death or incapacitation. The Israeli army, which is on high alert, has a plan, called "new leaf," to deal with the fallout from Arafat's

death, including possible Palestinian riots.

The Israeli military had not yet moved forces to anticipated problem areas, but commanders were told to be on standby.

PLO transfer of power

The Associated Press

Procedure for transfer of power within Palestinian Authority:

■ The Palestinians' Basic Law, similar to a constitution, says the speaker of parliament becomes acting president for a maximum of 60 days, until an election is held to fill a five-year presidential term.

■ During the transition, former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas would be chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which represents the Palestinian people with foreign governments and international organizations.

■ Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia would remain head of the Cabinet, which handles the daily affairs of the Palestinian government. He also would take over chairmanship of the National Security Council. The council handles the most important security forces.

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Attorney: Jenkins believes desertion sentence 'very fair'

By ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Former U.S. Army Sgt. Charles Jenkins believes his conviction and sentence of 30 days in jail for desertion after nearly 40 years in North Korea is "very fair," his defense attorney told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Bringing one of the Army's longest desertion cases to a close, Jenkins, 64, and in poor health, pleaded guilty Wednesday to abandoning his unit in 1963 and aiding the enemy by teaching English to North Korean military officer cadets.

"Sgt. Jenkins and his family believe the sentence was very fair," the lawyer, Capt. James Culp, said in an interview.

In accordance with a pretrial agreement, Jenkins was sentenced to 30 days in jail, forced to forfeit pay and allowances, and demoted from sergeant to private. He also will be given a punitive discharge. Charges of soliciting others to desert and of making disloyal statements were dismissed.

Jenkins was convicted of abandoning his Army unit along the Demilitarized Zone between the Koreas before dawn on Jan. 5, 1965, and fleeing to North Korea. He turned himself in to authorities at Camp Zama, the Army's



Sgt. Charles Robert Jenkins was given a 30-day jail sentence and a dishonorable discharge at his court-martial for desertion to North Korea, on Wednesday at Camp Zama, Japan.

headquarters in Japan, on Sept. 11.

Jenkins, of Rich Square, N.C., said he walked into North Korea with a white T-shirt wrapped around his rifle as a surrender flag, because he was afraid of being assigned to dangerous patrols along the DMZ and was convinced he would soon be sent into combat in Vietnam. He said he had planned to seek asylum at the Soviet Embassy and eventually return to the United States.

In announcing the sentence,

the judge, Col. Denise Vowell, recommended the jail time be suspended. That recommendation was not immediately accepted by base commander Maj. Gen. Albert Perkins, however, and Jenkins was transferred to a military jail shortly after the court-martial.

With good behavior, Jenkins could be released on Nov. 28.

Culp, a veteran military defense attorney and a former infantry sergeant himself, said he was not surprised by the verdict.

"But I was surprised by the judge's recommendation to suspend all confinement," he said in his first public comments since the court-martial. "That is a very rare thing for a military judge to do."

Culp argued Jenkins already had endured great hardship during his four decades in North Korea, suffering poverty, beatings and constant surveillance. The prosecution and Jenkins brought that misfortune on himself.

After his discharge, Jenkins may not be completely separated from the Army, until his automatic appeal process is completed, he could remain on "involuntary excess leave" status for from one to two years.

Even so, after a couple weeks at Camp Zama, Jenkins is expected to stay in Japan to live in his wife's hometown on the remote island of Sado.



British newspapers Thursday carry the story of President Bush's re-election on their front pages.

Europe at odds over Bush's re-election

BY BETH GARDINER

The Associated Press

LONDON — European leaders urged President Bush Thursday to work closely with America's allies on issues like terrorism and the environment in his second term, while critics of the president worried re-election would embolden him to pursue conservative policies more aggressively than ever.

Many European newspapers greeted the president's triumph with dismay.

"Oops — they did it again," Germany's left-leaning Tageszeitung newspaper said in a front-page English headline.

"How can 59,054,087 people be so DUMB?" Britain's liberal Daily Mirror tabloid asked. "March of the Moral Majority," said the front page of the Daily Mail, above a photo of Bush with his wife and daughters.

In Spain, the conservative Spanish newspaper El Mundo, which vehemently opposed the Iraq war, printed a cartoon showing Osama bin Laden holding up Bush's arm in triumph.

Politicians were more positive. Many had already offered their good wishes after Democrat John Kerry conceded to Bush Wednesday, and the congratulations continued Thursday.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen sent a letter to Bush urging that "we together make an effort to give the relationship between the United States and Europe new energy."

German President Horst Köhler said in a telegram that his country will be a "friend and partner" to the United States.

"Further great tasks lie ahead of you over the coming four years," he wrote. "They are not only significant for your country, but they also have a global dimension."

In Turkey, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he

hoped "the election results will serve humanity and peace."

Congratulations also came from Estonian Prime Minister Juhan Parts, who promised to continue his country's support for the war on terrorism and the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, where Estonia has 45 soldiers.

But on a continent where opposition to Bush's assertive foreign policy — and particularly to the Iraq war — has been strong, much of the reaction was less diplomatic.

The cover of the Swiss newsweekly Facts called Bush's re-election "Europe's Nightmare."

"It is now time to understand that George W. Bush was not a four-year aberration but represents the new America," the magazine said.

"They wanted him? Well, they got him," said Le Matin of Lausanne, Switzerland. "This time if the sky falls on their heads, they will have no one to blame but themselves."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said those who disagree with Bush must recognize that he was Americans' choice.

"It is in everybody's interests, including that of continental Europe... that we work together with the United States," he told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

In Asia, many American allies hailed Bush's win as a victory for the global war on terror and hoped his second term would help defuse nuclear tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Others in the region feared a second Bush term could lead to more turmoil and worsen tension between Muslims and the West.

"It's a victory for the anti-terrorism cause," said Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a staunch U.S. ally and friend of Bush.

"This is a strong reaffirmation of his leadership of the United States in its fight against world terrorism."

Koizumi: Bush's victory a plus for U.S.-Japan ties

BY KENJI HALL

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Thursday welcomed President Bush's re-election and said he wants to build even closer ties with Washington in what he called Japan's "most important" diplomatic relationship.

Koizumi has staked his political future on strong support for Bush and the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Last month, the Japanese leader said that he hoped the Republican president would "do well" in the election.

The president's re-election means that the American people trust his leadership," Koizumi said in a statement.

Koizumi said he hoped to strengthen ties with Bush.

"Building on the ties of trust and friendship, I want to promote stronger Japan-U.S. relations," he said. "Japan's most important diplomatic relations are with the United States."

Showing a flash of his personal affinity for the president, Koizumi later told reporters he ad-

mired Bush's ability to face down critics.

"It's impressive. He withstood that much criticism from the world and a great deal of criticism from the domestic (U.S.) media."

He showed leadership," Koizumi said. "It's impressive. I'll have to learn from him."

Earlier this year, the Japanese leader responded to Washington's appeal for help in Iraq by deploying some 550 troops to the southern city of Samawah on a humanitarian mission, despite public opposition at home.

Tokyo hasn't said whether Japanese forces will stay in Iraq beyond mid-December. Without a formal extension, the aid mission would end.

But Bush's re-election alleviates pressure for Koizumi to con-

sider pulling troops out of Iraq following the killing of a Japanese hostage by Islamic militants who had demanded that Japanese forces withdraw.

The continuity in Washington is expected to help Tokyo forge ahead with plans to test a U.S.-made missile-defense system and push for a shuffling of nearly 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan.

Analysts also said Bush's re-election could be a circuit-breaker that leads to the resumption of six-party talks aimed at ending the North Korea's nuclear programs.

The threat of an attack by North Korea is Japan's biggest security headache, and many Japanese were relieved that efforts to diffuse the crisis may now go ahead.

Japanese media also called the U.S. election results a plus for the two countries' warm trade relations.

"For trade-dependent Japan, Bush's re-election should be welcomed," Japan's national Yomiuri newspaper said in an editorial.



Koizumi

S. Korean leaders congratulate Bush but watch for Cabinet, policy changes

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — South Korean leaders marked President Bush's re-election by sending congratulatory messages Thursday and expressing their hope of furthering the "progress in bilateral relations in the past two years."

In a statement from President Roh Moo-hyun's office, the government said it "hoped the two countries will be able to join forces to achieve peace and prosperity for people all around the world."

Bush's re-election comes at a pivotal point in the 50-year alliance U.S.-South Korea alliance: The standoff over North Korea's nuclear ambitions remains unresolved and the U.S. military is undertaking sweeping changes to its force structure here.

The South Korean National Security Council met Thursday to analyze what effect, if any, the election would have on U.S. foreign policy — particularly on Pacific region security.

The National Assembly's foreign affairs commit-

tee also met in the election's wake, officials said. Its members were expected to discuss what could happen should senior U.S. Cabinet officials such as Secretary of State Colin Powell not serve in the second term.

Some government officials, speaking off the record to Korea media, worried about the possibility a second Bush administration would replace those Cabinet members considered "doves" and take a harder stance on the North Korea issue.

A presidential spokesman in Seoul said Roh hoped to meet with Bush during next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Chile.

Officials expect the next round of six-party nuclear talks — which stalled for months before the election — to be scheduled soon. During the campaign, Bush said the six-nation framework was the best way to deal with the North.

As of Thursday, North Korea, usually quick to throw rhetorical barbs at the United States, was silent about the election.

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IN THE STATES

Bush outlines agenda for 2nd term



President Bush meets with his cabinet in the Cabinet Room of the White House Thursday in Washington. Left to right next to Bush are Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans, Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Director of the Office of Management and Budget Joshua Bolton, and White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card.

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A minority president no more, President Bush sketched a second-term agenda Thursday that includes fighting the worldwide war on terror and seeking tax overhaul and fundamental changes in Social Security at home.

"I've earned capital in this election, and I'm going to spend it for what I've told the people I'd spend it on," he said.

Asked by a reporter about troop strength in Iraq and whether four extensions for those now serving in Iraq were in the offing, the President said he had not yet received requests from battlefield commanders for more troops, beyond 6,500 soldiers who were told last week that they would be staying.

Bush also pledged to pursue the foreign policy that was a flashpoint in the presidential campaign and has sparked criticism by some American allies in Europe.

"There is a certain attitude in the world by some that says that it's a waste of time to try to promote free societies in parts of the world," he said, a reference to Iraq in particular. "I've heard that criticism," he said.

"Remember, I went to London to talk about our vision of spreading freedom throughout the greater Middle East and I fully understand that that might rankle some and be viewed by some as folly."

Told by a reporter that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had died, Bush said he intended to "continue to work for a free Palestinian state that's at peace with Israel." Later reports said that Arafat, in a coma in Paris, was still alive.

Bush sidestepped questions about changes in his Cabinet and potential vacancies in the Supreme Court, where Chief Justice William Rehnquist recently disclosed he was undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer.

"I haven't made any decisions on the Cabinet yet," Bush said — nor about his top staff, he added. Changes are widely expected in both, possibly at the Justice Department and State Department.

As for the nation's highest court, he said, "There's no vacancy for the Supreme Court and I will deal with a vacancy when there is one."

Bush fielded questions after securing re-election in a campaign framed by the war in Iraq and economic issues at home. Nearly complete returns gave him 51 percent of the popular vote — a contrast to 2000, when he lost the popular vote but won the Electoral College.

For the second straight day, he pledged to reach out to those who opposed his re-election.

"The campaign over, Americans are expecting a bipartisan effort and results. I will reach out to everyone who shares our goals," he said.

"Democrats want a free and peaceful world," he said at one point.

Senior aides:
Ashcroft likely
to leave post

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft is likely to leave his post before the start of President Bush's second term, senior aides said Thursday.

Ashcroft, 62, is described as exhausted from leading the Justice Department in fighting the domestic war on terror since Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Stress was a factor in Ashcroft's health problems earlier this year.

Ashcroft is expected to resign before Bush's Jan. 20 inauguration, said aides who spoke only on condition of anonymity. They said there is a small chance he would stay on, at least for a short time, if Bush asked him. The attorney general has not officially informed his staff of his future plans.

Names that have been floated in recent weeks as a possible replacement include Ashcroft's former deputy, Larry Thompson, who would become the first black attorney general. Others include Marc Racicot, who was Bush's campaign manager, and White House general counsel Alberto Gonzales, who is Hispanic.

The president began his day by meeting with his Cabinet. After the news conference, he looked ahead to a weekend trip to Camp David, where he said he would consider personnel changes for the second term.

"It's inevitable there will be changes," he said, adding that speculation about switches were a "great Washington sport."

He cautioned against participating in it, saying he hadn't made any decisions.

Earlier, Bush took congratulatory calls from the presidents of Iraq, Afghanistan, Poland and Russia and the prime ministers of Israel and Italy.

The president told the Cabinet, "We've still got work to do."

"We're here for a reason," the president said. "It is a privilege to sit around this table."

In a victory speech last Wednesday, Bush said reaching his goals "will require the broad support of Americans."

He asked Kerry's disappointed supporters to back him — even though many of his proposals are anathema to those who opposed his re-election.

"I will work to earn it. I will do all I can to deserve your trust," he said.

"When we come together and work together, there is no limit to the greatness of America."



Photo courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau

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With re-election, DOD transformation goes on

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — With President Bush's re-election, the plans and programs of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, notably transformation of the military and the strategy in Iraq, are expected to go forward.

Rumsfeld, at 72, is "very energetic" and has great energy still wants to accomplish, Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita told Stars and Stripes.

"As far as bringing this department into the 21st century [through] transformation, I think we are closer to the beginning than to the end," Di Rita said.

Rumsfeld will stay for at least another year in order to see through two of his key undertakings: transformation and the war in Iraq, according to Loren Thompson, a defense analyst with the think tank Lexington Institute in Alexandria, Va.

"Most people around Rumsfeld say if [he is] asked, he's willing to stay on for a substantial period of time. The biggest reason is transformation of the military, which is only partially complete, and feels that it

is his legacy as secretary. That's something he wants to see through to fruition," Thompson said.

"And people around Rumsfeld say he believes the strategy in Iraq is going to work if given more time, and wants to stick around to prove he was right."

The war in Iraq will dominate foreign policy as the White House seeks to stabilize and secure the country, bring in a self-governing body, boost the economy and then bring home the U.S. troops, Di Rita said. There is no timeline and progress will be dictated by circumstances and quashing insurgents, he said.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is in the middle of his second two-year term and plans to serve out the remainder of the appointment, which ends Sept. 30, 2005. Typically, chairmen serve only the two two-year terms, an



Rumsfeld

official said.

Some officials are expecting personnel turnover, including the top civilian service chiefs.

The Army's stand-in Secretary for the past 18 months, Deputy Army Secretary Les Brownlee, was not nominated for the top spot.

The White House's nomination went to Francis Harvey, who since January 1999 had served as director of the federal contractor Duratek Inc., was former chief operating officer of Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Industries and Technology Group, and has served on boards composed controlled by the Carlyle Group, a private investment firm with close ties to the Bush family.

His confirmation was stalled in the Senate following an Oct. 6 hearing, but is scheduled as the first order of business when the Senate reconvenes Nov. 16.

Harvey faced criticism during the hearing from Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., a member of the Armed Service's Committee, over boosting troop strength, which Reed favors. Harvey was noncommittal during the hearing.

Harvey was nominated Sept. 14, nearly five months after former Secretary Thomas White abruptly resigned in April after repeated sparring with Rumsfeld. But the process was bumpy. The first nominee, Air Force Secretary James Roche, withdrew his nomination because of controversy over plans to lease Boeing refueling tankers.

Roche also has faced controversy and friction with top leadership, but wants to serve at the will of the President, said Lt. Col. Nick Wilhous, his spokesman.

"He's taking a wait-and-see approach at what plans the administration has," Navy Secretary Gordon England remains happy to serve as the Navy's top civilian leader, said his spokesman, Capt. Kevin Wensing.

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark, was confirmed by the Senate on July 8 for a two-year term. Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John Jumper, is slated to leave his job in September after completing the allotted four-year term. Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker took the reins in August 2003.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Powell could be lame duck

BY GEORGE GEDDA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell has been evasive about his future, skirting questions about the timing of his widely expected departure after four rough-and-tumble years as America's chief diplomat.

In dozens of interviews, Powell has dismissed questions about his plans by saying with a smile, "I serve at the pleasure of the president."

Powell has long been considered to be a one-term secretary of state, irrespective of whether President Bush is re-elected. Speculation has been rife for months about possible successors in a second Bush term. Among those mentioned are national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and U.N. Ambassador John Danforth.

Last July, Bush suggested during an appearance in Philadelphia that he would be happy if Powell were to remain on. The remark went virtually unnoticed by the media but caught the attention of Powell aides.

During a September interview with The Associated Press, Powell was asked whether he considered Bush's comment to be an invitation for him to stay on.

"Time will tell. We will see," Powell replied.

When asked Wednesday about Powell's plans, his spokesman, Richard Boucher, reverted to the usual language about "serving at the pleasure of the president."

One possibility would be for Powell to stay on for a brief period until after the national elections in Iraq, which are supposed to be held before the end of January 2005.

As analysts see it, a post-Iraq election departure for Powell would make more sense than one that could occur just days before the balloting in Iraq but after Bush's second term begins.

And the Bush victory means that his own trip to an Asia-Pacific summit meeting in Chile before Thanksgiving will involve substantive exchanges rather than farewell handshakes and polite banter.

Edwards' wife has cancer

BY RON FOURNIER
AND RANDOLPH SCHMID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards, was diagnosed with breast cancer the day her husband and Sen. John Kerry conceded the U.S. presidential race.

Spokesman David Ginsberg said Mrs. Edwards, 55, discovered a lump in her right breast while on a campaign trip last week. Her family doctor told her Friday that it appeared to be cancerous and advised her to see a specialist when she could.

She put off the appointment until Wednesday so as to not miss campaign time. Mrs. Edwards had a needle biopsy performed at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where Dr. Barbara Smith confirmed the cancer, Ginsberg said.

He said the cancer was diagnosed as an invasive ductal cancer. That is the most common type of breast cancer, and can spread from the milk ducts to other parts of the breast or beyond.

More tests were being done to determine how far the cancer has advanced and how to treat it, he said.

Ginsberg said spirits are high at the Edwards household.

"Everybody feels good about it, that this



Elizabeth Edwards, wife of Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards, was diagnosed with breast cancer. A recent study has shown the deaths are on the decline in early studies of new cancer drugs. See story, Page 13.

is beatable," he said.

Edwards, who leaves his North Carolina Senate seat in January, said in a statement, "Elizabeth is as strong a person as I've ever known. Together, our family will beat this."

Two major races in two states are still undecided

Major election races nationwide that remained unresolved Thursday:

WASHINGTON GOVERNOR — Republican state Sen. Dino Rossi and Democratic Attorney General Christine Gregoire remained optimistic as election officials counted across Washington state began counting an estimated 900,000 absentee ballots.

Gregoire led by fewer than 15,000 votes, 980,190 to 965,867, a difference of less than 1 percentage point.

IOWA PRESIDENT — President Bush held a slim lead with several thousand absentee and provisional ballots still to be counted, likely not until early next week.

State officials said that up to 50,000 absentee ballots issued to voters had not yet been returned.

More than 13,000 provisional ballots had been identified.

The Associated Press

Recount to decide Puerto Rico governorship

BY LEONARDO ALDRIDGE
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Former Gov. Pedro Rossello disputed preliminary election results suggesting a win for his opponent and said Thursday he was confident he would prevail in a recount.

The recount is planned Monday following an extremely close vote Tuesday between Rossello, who supports making Puerto Rico a U.S. state, and Anibal Acevedo Vila, the U.S. territory's nonvoting delegate to Congress.

"We have information showing that when this process is over, we'll prevail," Rossello told reporters Thursday in his first public statements since the vote.

Puerto Rico's election commission said Acevedo Vila had won by 3,880 votes, according to preliminary results. But the margin was so slim — Acevedo Vila's lead was about 0.2 percent — that officials ordered a recount.

Acevedo Vila claimed victory Wednesday, and began announcing plans for the transition. Rossello declined to give details about his victory claim but criticized Acevedo Vila for beginning to name a transition team before the recount.

"It's disrespectful" to the election process, Rossello said.

Acevedo Vila from the pro-commonwealth Popular Democratic Party, was running to replace his ally Gov. Sila Calderon, who didn't seek re-election.

Rossello, of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, was governor from 1993 through 2000. He has pledged a new campaign to make Puerto Rico the 51st U.S. state through a referendum on statehood, an option narrowly defeated in nonbinding votes in 1993 and 1998.

Acevedo Vila criticized Rossello for corruption scandals involving officials in his government, and a number of supporters said that was a major concern.

Acevedo Vila has pledged a constitutional assembly to decide Puerto Rico's status next year. He says he favors reforming the commonwealth system to allow for greater autonomy, particularly in economic development.

Activists for same-sex unions unswayed by election defeats

BY ELIZABETH MEHRN
Los Angeles Times

The successful efforts to amend 11 state constitutions to ban same-sex marriage has energized both sides of the highly contentious issue.

Defenders of traditional marriage say voters' resounding support for state measures that limit marriage to a union between a man and a woman proves that a federal marriage amendment is inevitable.

Advocates of gay and lesbian marriage sounded equally determined Wednesday as they vowed to move ahead with efforts to legalize same-sex marriage in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut — and, very likely within the next year, California.

With five new Republican senators elected Tuesday, opponents of same-sex marriage maintain, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution could be introduced and conceivably passed as soon as the next congressional session.

"We are very encouraged," said Carrie Gordon Earle, spokesperson for Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo. "Basically, what the people said [Tuesday] was: Don't mess with marriage."

But Matt Foreman, executive

director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in New York, said the vote was only round one of a very long fight. "This is not going to shut down the debate in any way. The debate and the fight will go on."

The 11 states that passed constitutional amendments Tuesday joined seven others that earlier adopted measures to define marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution.

The votes Tuesday against same-sex marriage were clear and conclusive.

In Mississippi, the amendment won 86 percent support; Georgia, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kentucky all polled at least 75 percent support for their amendments, and North Dakota came close to that figure. In Montana and Utah, at least two-thirds of voters supported the amendment; in Ohio, the figure was 62 percent, and in Michigan, 59 percent.

The vote was closest in Oregon, where 57 percent approved the ban.

Most of the opposition in Oregon came from Multnomah County, where Portland is located, and where earlier this year more than 3,000 gay and lesbian couples were married before a judge drew a halt to the practice.

Sean Cahill, policy institute di-

rector for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said Wednesday that same-sex marriage supporters raised and spent close to \$2.8 million to fight the amendment in Oregon. He said his organization dispatched 12 staff members to work against the Oregon amendment, and recruited 70 volunteers from within the state.

Cahill said the closer voting margin in Oregon was the result of "a lot of one-on-one talking to voters. It is tedious and it is intense. But this is a strategy that works."

But Robert Knight, director of the Culture and Family Institute of Concerned Women for America in Washington, said Wednesday that foes of same-sex marriage sense that momentum is on their side after the strong state amendment votes.

In May, Massachusetts became the only state to permit gays and lesbians to marry, following a ruling by that state's highest court.

Knight predicted, however, that "same-sex marriage will not survive in Massachusetts."

If other states legalize same-sex marriage, he said, "it will be seen as a bizarre exception to the normal trend. America spoke loudly and clearly on Tuesday and said this has gone too far, and it is time to turn back toward moral normalcy."



A cancer patient in Portland, Ore., holds a roll of MEDJ-UANA. With Montana's approval of a medical marijuana initiative, nearly three-fourths of Western states now have such laws — while only two of the 37 states outside the West have adopted them.

Why the West was won on medical marijuana

BY ANGIE WAGNER
The Associated Press

With Montana's approval of a medical marijuana initiative, nearly three-fourths of Western states now have such laws — while only two of the 37 states outside the West have adopted them.

Why is the West so much more receptive to the idea? From a procedural standpoint, it's just easier to get pot issues on Western ballots because most states in the region allow such initiatives. Nationwide, just 24 states allow citizens to put issues on the ballot by petition, bypassing the legislature. Eleven of those states are in the West.

But activists and political scientists also say Westerners are less willing than other Americans to tell their neighbors what they can and can't do. And historically, Western states tend to be in front on social trends.

"I would guess many of the people that voted for it probably don't use marijuana, but they don't want to say their neighbors can't," said Steven Stehr, political science professor at Washington State University.

The population also is newer than the rest of the country and states don't have deeply ingrained traditions, said David Olson, political scientist at the University of Washington.

Montana has become the 11th state in the country — and the ninth Western state — to allow medical marijuana. The approval came even as Montana voted by wide margins to ban gay marriage and to re-elect President Bush, a Republican.

"We always say in Montana we're extraordinarily independent, so we'll vote for contradictory things," said Jerry Calvert, political science professor at Montana State University in Bozeman.

The Montana initiative passed 62 percent to 38 percent, support that marijuana reform groups say was the highest ever for a medical marijuana ballot initiative.

Oregon voters rejected a measure that would have dramatically expanded its existing medical marijuana program. That may have been too ambitious even for the West, said Bruce Mirken, spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project.

Alaska, which also has an existing medical marijuana law, rejected a measure to decriminalize the drug, though marijuana groups were impressed that 43 percent of voters there supported it.

Outside the region, voters in Ann Arbor, Mich., and Columbia, Mo., approved local medical marijuana measures.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco has ruled that states are free to adopt medical marijuana laws so long as the marijuana is not sold, transported across state lines or used for nonmedical purposes. The ruling covers only those Western states in the circuit. The Bush administration has appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Besides the favorable initiative process in the West, the region is also usually the start of progressive political movements that work their way East, said Keith Stroup, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

In addition to Montana, Western states that allow medical marijuana are Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state. Arizona has a law permitting marijuana prescriptions, but no active program.

Maine and Vermont are the only states outside the West with existing medical marijuana laws. For now, medical marijuana has not only found acceptance in the West, but the region may set the tone for proposals across the country.

"As medical marijuana becomes more regulated and institutionalized in the West, that may provide a model for how we ultimately make marijuana legal for all adults," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director for the Drug Policy Alliance.

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Kerry's future unclear

Democratic party is fractured after also losing leader Daschle

BY JILL ZUCKMAN
Chicago Tribune

BOSTON — Sen. John Kerry and his aides thought he would be spending the morning after Election Day preparing to take over the presidency.

Instead, he found himself deciding whether to wage a court battle with the state of Ohio, and facing an uncertain political future.

With his candidacy nearly left for dead more than once on his way to this moment, Kerry ended his quest for the White House able to brag that he had won 4 million more votes than any other Democratic presidential candidate.

His closest advisers say that accomplishment will allow him to return to the Senate as a statesman and a leader, someone who can unite a fractured party led leaderless by the defeat of Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Still unclear is whether Kerry might try to replace Daschle as Democratic leader. Aides said it is too early to tell but that other options are under consideration, such as forming a think tank or a leadership PAC.

Most important, advisers said, Kerry wants to remain a voice for the middle class.

"I will never forget you and I'll never stop fighting for you," Kerry promised

Wednesday as he conceded the election to President Bush inside the cradle of democracy, Faneuil Hall.

"I did my best to express my vision and my hopes for America," he told supporters in the old civic meetinghouse, standing before a Revolutionary-era painting titled "Liberty and Union Now and Forever."

Kerry pulled the plug on his presidential quest late Wednesday morning after conferring with advisers who had concluded there was no way for him to win mathematically despite the lawyers' push to litigate.

In the days leading up to the election, Kerry and his aides believed they would win based on polling from battleground states. And on Election Day, early exit polls suggested Kerry was on his way to victory, but as Florida began to slip away the mood turned grim.

"It's a very difficult election to understand," said Tad Devine, one of Kerry's senior strategists, citing the Democratic nominee's wide margins with independent and women voters, usually a formula for success.

Campaign officials were disheartened because of the promising exit polls.

In the closing hours of the campaign, Kerry had seemed confident of victory, sure of his message, and serene as the finish line came into view.

But Kerry the candidate and his campaign had had a multitude of problems.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., waves outside Faneuil Hall on Wednesday after delivering his concession speech in Boston.

He demonstrated a humorless intensity, and struggled to come across as likable and warm. On the stump, he was uneven, often providing his audiences with elaborate policy prescriptions that gave little opportunity for applause.

Still, by the campaign's end, Kerry had begun connecting with voters in a way that had often eluded him earlier.

In Xenia, Ohio, Michael Adams stood up in the high school gymnasium and told voters how it felt to lose his job at the Delphi manufacturing plant. He described what it was like to cash out his retirement plan to

pay for household bills. And he told the rapt crowd why he had decided to vote for Kerry.

Later, when a woman asked Kerry to name his hero, he recited off several, including Christopher Reeve, the late actor and advocate for medical research. Then he paused, and with some emotion, added one more name: "People like Michael Adams. People who overcome adversity. People who show courage every single day in this country and often aren't recognized for it. There are a whole bunch of folks who are working against odds."

Potential candidates line up for race for president in 2008

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even as Democrats lick their wounds and Republicans bask in President Bush's second-term victory, would-be presidential candidates for 2008 already are maneuvering for position.

"You can be disappointed, but you cannot walk away. This fight has just begun," Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards told party loyalists in a speech early Wednesday in a Boston that could qualify as the leadoff stump speech of the next presidential campaign.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee was first out of the box among prospective GOP candidates with a "victory tour" of the South to showcase victorious Republican Senate candidates from the region.

Almost as soon as the curtain dropped on the 2004 presidential race, one was raised on the 2008 contest — never mind that the midterm congressional elections of 2006 come first.

The next presidential cycle will be wide open on both sides. Bush is limited to two terms. And while the incumbent's vice president is usually the favored next-up nominee, Vice President Dick Cheney, 63 and with a history of heart disease, has ruled out a run for president.

Sen. John Kerry could run again. But Democrat Al Gore, the

2000 nominee, found the comeback trail a difficult one.

Kerry's defeat and concession speech Wednesday cleared the way for 2008 runs by both Edwards and Daschle, now a senator from North Carolina, and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York.

Clinton, who could have been selected in 2002 with a Kerry-Edwards victory, and re-election in 2008, is now front and center among would-be Democratic contenders. And her supporters were busy getting her name in circulation.

The former first lady has plenty of name recognition and a wide following. But some analysts suggest she could meet the same fate as Kerry — as a liberal senator from a Northeastern state, despite the years she spent in Arkansas.

"She is a person who has a lot of people wanting her to run. She'll be a strong contender. But she also motivates the base of the opposition," said James Thurber, a political scientist at American University.

Thurber said it's important for Democrats to nominate a candidate who can win at least some Southern states — as Lyon



Clinton



McCain

Johnson, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton had done, but which Kerry and Gore failed to accomplish.

Edwards might seem to have an advantage, being from North Carolina. The

trial lawyer with a southern drawl drew high likability ratings on the campaign trail, both during the Democratic primaries and as Kerry's running mate.

But he was unable to bring his own state into the fold for Kerry.

Edwards' liabilities include lack of political and foreign policy experience. And his decision not to seek re-election to the Senate this year will make it hard for him to stay in the spotlight.

Doug Schoen, who was President Clinton's pollster, said it is too early "to talk personalities. The party's got to get repositioned first. It has to get back to the center with an aggressive assertion of traditional values."

Other Democrats who might seek the presidential nomination in four years include Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana and Gov. Rod Blagojevich of Illinois and Tom Vilsack of Iowa. And, up and coming, perhaps for a presidential bid down the road, if not in 2008, is Il-

linois' Barack Obama, who will be the only black member of the Senate when he is sworn into office in January.

There's no shortage of potential Republican candidates, either.

Besides Frist, the lineup includes Sens. John McCain of Arizona, George Allen of Virginia, Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Chuck Hagel of Nebraska. Also, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and at least two governors — Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and George Pataki of New York.

There also is Jeb Bush, although the Florida governor has said he won't try to follow his father and brother to the White House.

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Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department/AP
Firefighters battle a blaze Wednesday at Prince George's County (Md.) Courthouse. The fire gutted the 19th-century building.

Investigators looking for cause of courthouse fire

By DERRILL HOLLY
The Associated Press

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. — The county court complex remained closed Thursday morning as investigators probed smoldering rubble from a fire that devoured a 123-year-old building.

It is not yet known what caused Wednesday's wind-driven blaze, which began on the roof area as work progressed on a \$27 million renovation.

The building's hose taps and sprinklers had been disconnected during the construction, and firefighters decided to let the flames gut the red-brick structure so they could save the modern courthouse next door.

That building, which opened in 1991, contains the county's criminal

files, land records and other documents.

Crews were expected to continue aerating the undamaged section Thursday. It could reopen for business Friday.

The modern building had not opened for the day when fire broke out in the so-called Duval Wing. Officials believe more than 35 construction workers were on site.

Old beams, wooden flooring and construction materials provided ample fuel and wind gusts of more than 25 mph spread the flames quickly.

Calling the building a county treasure, County Executive Jack Johnson said he would seek state assistance for restoration.

Court operations have been conducted at the site since 1720. The building was completed in 1881.

Study: Deaths down in early testing of new cancer drugs

By LINDSEY TANNER
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Experiments in which new cancer drugs are tested on patients are not as risky as they were a decade ago, according to a study that found a sharp drop in deaths from 1991 to 2002.

At the same time, there also was a decline in the percentage of tumors that shrank in response to the drugs being tested. But the researchers and other cancer experts said that doesn't mean drugs were increasingly ineffective.

Some of the newest cancer drugs employ a more targeted approach than older medicines, attacking tumor cells while causing less damage to healthy tissue. These drugs work by stopping but not necessarily reversing tumor growth, said Dr. Thomas Roberts Jr. of Massachusetts General Hospital, the study's lead author.

The development of such drugs plus better attention to patient safety may explain the declining death rate, Roberts said.

There were 35 drug-related deaths in the 213 studies examined, but such deaths were much more frequent in the earlier experiments than in the more recent ones. There were 24 drug-linked

deaths in studies from 1991 to 1994, 10 from 1995 to 1998 and just one from 1999 to 2002.

Deaths from other causes, including cancer, also decreased — from 39 to 17 in the more recent studies.

Dr. Mace Rothenberg, a Vanderbilt University cancer research specialist who was not involved in the study, called the findings "clearly good news."

"It indicates that patients who agree to go on to these fairly risky studies are not placing themselves at an unacceptably high risk for severe toxicity or death," he said. The studies involved 6,474 patients, and the overall death rate fell from 3 percent to 1 percent.

The researchers said there has been increased oversight of human experiments during the past decade.

For example, they said, many institutions have developed educational programs for researchers and hired additional staff to oversee research.

Roberts said it was encouraging to find not only fewer drug-linked deaths, but also a decline in cancer-related deaths.

"They are significant because this is something that really mat-

ters to patients I think when they are considering whether to proceed with standard treatments or experimental treatments," Roberts said.

His report appears in Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The studies involved were Phase I clinical trials, the first time experimental drugs are tested in humans. These are small studies designed mainly to test the safety of an experimental treatment and to determine the maximum tolerable dose.

Patients who participate in Phase I cancer studies generally have advanced disease that has not responded to conventional treatments. While many hope participating will improve their health, that is not the primary goal in such studies.

The patients involved had various types of cancer, including colon, lung, kidney, breast and prostate tumors.

Roberts said the results are particularly encouraging because of heightened concern over the safety of human research following the deaths of two patient volunteers in non-cancer studies at the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University in recent years.

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"Dads, the probab'ly wouldn't come out alive"

The Associated Press

McLEAN, Va. — In the minds of many, terrorists struck their first blow against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. But others look back exactly a quarter-century ago, on Nov. 4, 1979, when 66 Americans were taken hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Iran.

Most remained in captivity for 444 days. Today, reflecting on their experiences through the prism of the war in Iraq, more than two decades of tumultuous relations with the Middle East, many say the United States was too late to recognize that a new era had begun.

"The day they took us in is the day they should have started the war on terrorism," said Rodney "Rocky" Sickman, 47, of St. Louis County, Mo., an embassy security guard.

Many agree that terrorists were not provoked by their kidnapping in the Iran hostage crisis — none of the hostages were killed, but the U.S. government agreed to release \$8 billion in frozen Iranian assets — and see the kidnappings and beheadings in Iraq as a consequence.

"Given the terrorist modus operandi nowadays, we probably wouldn't come out alive. They weren't as bold then. They had a latent fear of the United States," said Chuck Scott, 72, of Jones-

25 years later, former hostages discuss Iran

boro, Ga., a former Green Beret in Vietnam who was an Army colonel when he was taken hostage.

Steven Kirtley, 47, of McLean, who was a Marine security guard at the embassy, said that while he's grateful everybody survived, he's also angry about what he sees as America's largely ineffectual response to the hostage-takers.

He called the episode "a stepping stone to get that terrorist movement going. It was such a terrible loss of face ... such a weakness that I still don't think we've recovered."

Forty-two of the hostages were held for the entire 444 days. Of those, 11 have since died.

Among the rest, memories of that time have resurfaced with the kidnappings and beheadings of Americans in Iraq.

"When I saw them there blindfolded with the guys with the ski masks on — I had gone through

those things in Iran," said Rick Kuppe, 57, of Rensselaer, Ind. "I can tell exactly what they felt and the fear that's going through them."

William Blackburn Roy Jr., 73, of Katy, Texas, remembers being jolted awake by the screams of his captors, "herded like cattle" into another room, stripped naked and forced up against a wall in front of a firing squad.

"The whole thing was a shock to the system. My legs were shaking from the insecurity of the situation," he said. "It was intended as a good psychological upheaval."

Still, he was not sure if he would be killed.

"I knew this was a political thing," he said. "Ultimately, I think I thought that we were too valuable to be disposed of completely. So I kept the faith in that respect. [But] I had my doubts at a couple points."

Paul Needham said he remembers reciting the 23rd Psalm as he was lined up for a firing squad. He said he reflects on his captivity every day.

"It definitely changed me," said Needham, 53, of Oakton, a professor at the National Defense

University. "I took a look at getting my priorities in life in order — God and family and country, rather than work, work and work."

While nearly all the hostages said they feared for their lives at some point, many said their memories center on the tedium. Most hostages were largely isolated, and many said they were allowed outside for exercise less than once a month.

During a six-week stint in solitary confinement, Gary Earl Lee said he "made friends" with ants and a salamander that inhabited his room. He would tease the ants with a pistachio nut, letting them almost reach it before nudging it farther away.

"At least they were something better than the guards," said Lee, a retiree living in North Texas.

L. Bruce Laingen, of Bethesda, Md., the embassy's charge d'affaires, was the highest-ranking American taken hostage. He said it doesn't make sense that 25 years later the United States has little dialogue with Iran, considering the large American stake in the Middle East. He mainly faulted Iranian leaders for pursuing hostile policies such as developing nuclear technology and con-

tinuing to threaten Israel. He has lingering bitterness for the men and women who took him hostage. But he doesn't blame the Iranian people, who he said were welcoming.

"We need to understand Iran, and Iran needs to seek to understand us," he said.

Scott said he's still frustrated that the U.S. government has never held Iran accountable for taking the hostages.

"I agree with the war on terrorism, but the war on terror by the current administration has been a very selective war. So far we've gone after the really easy targets," said Scott, who opposed going into Iraq, but says America must now remain committed to finishing the job there.

Kirtley, on the other hand, believes America is on the right track with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. "It's the right approach," he said. "That culture responds more to strength than to a negotiated response."

As for the anniversary, many said they prefer to remember another day. "We celebrate Jan. 20, the anniversary of our release," Laingen said. "That's a good day. Nov. 4 is the day the roof fell in."

Associated Press writers Kristin Wehrli in St. Louis, Mo.; Steve Meyers in Manning in Savannah, Ga.; Carol Duran in Indianapolis; and Betty Taylor in St. Louis contributed to this report.



Kuppe

Nicotine study finds addictive gene in mice

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — California researchers fiddled with a single gene to create mice hypersensitive to nicotine, pointing to a single molecule partly to blame for nicotine's addictive allure.

The genetically engineered mice were tripped up by the tiniest exposure to nicotine — 50 times less than the level of nicotine coursing through a typical smoker's blood. Once hooked, the mice experienced classic signs of nicotine dependence that keep smokers puffing, the researchers report Friday in the journal Science.

In humans, reward arrives as a pleasant little jolt of dopamine, a calming brain chemical unleashed by nicotine. More smoking produces the body's tolerance for the drug. Sensitization means not feeling good without a nicotine fix, said Henry Lester, a biology professor at the Columbia Institute of Technology who was among the paper's 10 authors.

In mice, researchers saw reward when mice chose nicotine hits over salt, changed body temperatures by substance and more running around among sensitized mice.

The findings "not only provide direct evidence of how nicotine promotes dependence, but also raise fundamental questions about the genetics of addiction," researchers at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, wrote in a companion piece.

More than 4 million people around the globe die from smoking-related causes each year.

If the findings in mice hold true for humans, the work points to a specific target for a new drug to act, easing the physical and behavioral toll of nicotine addiction, others suggest.

People become dependent on nicotine when it parks in nerve cell receptors designed for the chemical acetylcholine. Once nicotine fills that space, dopamine is released. By knowing the specific parking place where nicotine can exact a high toll, a drug could be fashioned to fill it.

"The power lies in the ability to be so specific. In

The genetically engineered mice were tripped up by the tiniest exposure to nicotine.

being so specific, you can treat the cause without the ramifications of the side effects," said Stephen L. Dewey, a Brookhaven National Laboratory scientist who has studied epilepsy drugs to treat nicotine addiction.

Daniel McGeehee, a University of Chicago neurobiologist who has studied a different subset of receptors sensitive to nicotine called it "a fantastic study" but cautioned against thinking a drug would deliver benefits without costs. Interfering with how the body experiences the rewards of nicotine could dull such experiences as eating food or drinking water.

"That pathway is not there to promote tobacco use. It's there to promote healthy behaviors that lead to the survival of our species," McGeehee said. Tampering with it "may interfere with our ability to find pleasure and joy in normal, healthy things."

Lester has been working for years on a related, one of a dozen known units of nicotine receptor sites. The team learned how to tweak that protein, making it much more sensitive to nicotine.

What wasn't clear was which mice to manipulate. Others found answers by subtraction, erasing genes to create knock-out mice to study nicotine addiction. Lester's group made "knock-in" mice, making a single amino acid change among the millions of choices present in 30,000 mice genes.

"This is extremely clever because you're looking at it by addition," said Dr. L.W. Role, a Columbia University Medical Center professor who studies receptors sensitive to nicotine.

In the first set of mice, the genetic mutation was too pronounced. After the nicotine hits, dopamine levels were so intense the mice died, Lester said.

In the Science paper, they made tweaks that were just right. "What we have done is to show that a particular molecule is not only necessary for nicotine addiction, but is sufficient for nicotine addiction," he said. "With the particular alpha receptor is activated by nicotine — and no other receptors — that is sufficient to produce some of the effects associated with addiction."

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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

FACES

Ali attends 'topping out' ceremony

Muhammad Ali posed for pictures, gave out hugs and performed magic tricks for about 150 people who turned out for a "topping out" ceremony at the downtown Louisville, Ky., center named for him.

The event was to mark reaching the center's highest point. As part of Monday's ceremony, a large crane was to hoist the highest beam into place on the steel frame of the six-story Muhammad Ali Center. But rain kept that from happening, and the beam was lifted only a few feet off the ground.

The \$34.5 million, 93,000-square-foot center is scheduled to open Nov. 19, 2005. It will include 24,000 square feet of exhibits, featuring six themed pavilions. Each will focus on a different trait of the former heavyweight boxing champion.

Lonnie Ali, Ali's wife, said the Alis are committed to the center "becoming a global gathering place, where individuals not only have a platform for ironing out their differences, but a place" to motivate visitors to strive.



Ali

Howard: Times good for independents

More interest in plot- and character-driven movies means times are good for independent films, says Oscar-winning director Ron Howard.

"There's an ever-expanding interest in stories, thank God," said Howard, who will appear at the Asheville Film Festival in North Carolina this weekend. "More and more, there are compelling financial reasons — the artistic reasons have always been there — to make films that target a smaller audience base." The Asheville festival runs Thursday through Sunday. Howard, who won a best-director Oscar in 2002 for "A Beautiful Mind," will be in town to attend the Spotlight Celebration Awards Dinner on Saturday night. His father, longtime character actor Rance Howard, will receive a lifetime achievement award.

Finding money for independent films has also gotten better, though financing any movie, independent or otherwise, is never easy, said Howard, who shared the best-picture Oscar for "A Beautiful Mind" with producing partner Brian Grazer, in a phone interview Monday.

Brandy splits from record label

Brandy is looking for a new record label.

Brandy, 25, split from her long-time label, Atlantic Records, her publicist, Courtney Barnes, announced Monday. The departure came after relatively disappointing sales of her last album, "Afrodisiac." Although the album generated the moderate hit "Talk About Our Love" with Kanye West, it disappeared quickly from the charts.

It was a departure from her previous three albums, all of which sold at least 1 million copies.

Barnes says Brandy is looking at other labels and also plans to be co-executive producer of a comedy series for Fox television next year.



Brandy

Wyclef Jean on peace mission

Hip-hop star Wyclef Jean visited Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to try to help end a wave of violence that has left at least 79 people dead, including several police officers and two street gang leaders.

The singer met with community and gang leaders in Bel Air on Sunday as gunshots rang out. The neighborhood, filled with supporters of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has become a flash point for violence.

Jean said he planned to talk to all sectors of Haitian society during his four-day visit to promote dialogue and plans for a peace concert in December.

The U.S. presidential election could help or hinder the process, he told The Associated Press.

"Everyone is watching the elections so close from here," he said.

Story and photos from The Associated Press



Artist Jon Laymon — now a designer on "Trading Spaces" — created this "Jungle Book"-themed nursery for his son.

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

TRADING SPACES' DESIGNER TOOK A CAREER GAMBLE THAT PAID OFF

BY JEAN PATTESON
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Jon Laymon took a gamble late last year and won.

First, he and his wife, Stacy Laymon, won the chance to appear on four episodes of "Trading Spaces: Home Free," the popular TLC cable-TV series.

By the season's end in April, the Laymons had beaten out seven other couples in a series of redecorating competitions to win the popular vote — and enough prize money to pay off the mortgage on their new, four-bedroom, \$250,000 home in Ocoee, Fla.

Then Laymon, an artist and sculptor, went up against three professional interior designers on the show's fall-season opener, "Trading Spaces: Pick the Next Designer." Again, the telegraphic Laymon garnered the most viewer votes — and an offer, instantly accepted, to continue as one of several paid designers on the original "Trading Spaces."

"I love it," says Laymon, 31. "I'm an artist playing a designer on TV."

He's not an actor, he says. He is simply "doing what I do" on camera.

What he does — or rather, what he did before being discovered by "Trading Spaces" — is animatronics, or animat sculpture. He was the art director at an Orlando company that designs, builds and installs the giant jungle creatures that decorate Rainforest Cafe restaurants around the world.

Early this year, after winning the first leg of "Home Free," Laymon told his supervisors he needed time off to compete in additional episodes. He was told to choose: the game show or his job.

"I called Stacy," he says. "She said, 'If you don't do this, you'll regret it. You'll always wonder what might have happened. Go for it.'"

So he took the gamble. He quit his job of 11 years for a shot at winning a reality TV show.

Laymon is a natural when the cameras are rolling. Happy-go-lucky by nature, he thrives on the adrenaline rush of racing the clock to redecorate a room on a tight budget. And it doesn't hurt that he looks like a long-haired version of Brad Pitt.

Laymon is "dedicated, inspired and brings an incredible energy to everything he does," says Kathy Davidov, TLC executive producer of "Trading Spaces."

"His background as a sculptor and an art director shines through in unique, imaginative designs," she says. "He has an approachability that our viewers seem to really appreciate and identify with."

Stacy, 29, a hairdresser, is chic and vivacious. Their son, Dylan, was born in July 2003 — six months before his parents became TV celebrities.

A native of Ohio, Laymon graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh before moving to Orlando.

When he and a friend moved into their first apartment in Orlando, "our landlady felt so sorry for us when she saw our two bags of dirty laundry, she gave us a wicker chair and a coffee table — oh, and a clock radio, so we'd have music."

Today, he has a state-of-the-art sound system and a TV about the size of a double bed.

It was late last year when the Laymons' neighbors, Jay Stanley and Melanie Leffer, suggested the two couples enter the "Home Free" contest, in which neighbors redecorate spaces in each other's homes in the hopes of winning enough cash to pay off their mortgage.

The four friends made a videotape, introducing themselves and their makeover ideas, and shipped it off to TLC. A few weeks later, they were selected to be on the show.

Each couple was given \$2,000 to rework the other's bedroom. Stanley and Leffer's Asian-themed design was striking. But the Laymons' interpretation of a "royal suite" theme for their neighbors — complete with fabric on the ceiling and a textured wall finish made from a mix of coffee grounds, berries and plaster — captivated more viewers.

The public's continuing votes of confidence propelled the Laymons into the final episode — and won them the grand prize.

"Basically, Melanie's idea paid for this house. It was her idea to do the show," says Laymon.

But there are no hard feelings, says Stanley. "We've actually become closer friends because of the show. We were happy if it wasn't us that won, it was our friends who won."

Laymon's "quirky creativity" and good looks make him ideally suited to the show, says Stanley. "He's off-the-wall, left-of-center, and that makes him appealing."

Museum recalls Cambodia's Killing Fields

BY MELANIE COFFEY
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — For years, Leon Lim didn't want to talk about what he saw in the Killing Fields of Cambodia. He wanted to focus on his new life in America, not the torture endured under the Khmer Rouge and the loved ones lost.

Now, Lim and fellow survivors have a forum for helping heal their emotional scars, for preserving their past, for educating others of the atrocities that can be perpetrated by an unbridled communist regime. That place is Chicago's new Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, which the project's organizers say is the only public memorial in the United States that honors victims of the Khmer Rouge.

"About 2 million people died — and it's just too much," said Lim, a former refugee camp medic.

Dary Mien's starkest memory is being 6 years old and walking through rice fields littered with bodies. "The Cambodian community has just been so silent about its pain. But when it comes to this museum, that reminds them of their sense of culture, identity — and perhaps there's a way for us to connect better with each other," said Mien, associate director of the Cambodian Association of Illinois.

The association developed the museum and memorial, which opened last month, as a healing mechanism.

The museum is filled with items donated by survivors of the Killing Fields — everything from shackles used by the Khmer Rouge to Lim's medical equipment to decades-old books of Buddhist teachings made with pressed palm leaves.



Leon Lim looks Wednesday at the names of people who died under the Khmer Rouge regime that are etched on glass panels of the Killing Fields Memorial at Chicago's Cambodian American Heritage Museum. Lim, who was in the Killing Fields of Cambodia, worked as a medic in a refugee camp and hopes to pass on his story to teach others about his life in Cambodia through the memorial.

The glass memorial consists of 80 panes, each at least six feet tall, that represent those who died when the Khmer Rouge ruled in the late 1970s. Names of the dead are etched into the panes in the Khmer language.

A lotus flower is carved into the memorial's center wall along with the words: "We continue our journey with compassion, understanding and wisdom."

The names of nearly two dozen of Lim's family and friends are among those engraved in the glass.

"When you have the name of a loved one etched on the glass panel, it makes you feel like they're with you," Lim said. "It helps you to heal your wounds from the past. It becomes a place for the community to come together to unify and say let's move on."

Many in the Cambodian community, though, didn't want the memorial built at first, organizers said.

"We are trying to bring up the past that speaks about a genocide that some feel should be forgotten," Mien said. "Their

concern was that, 'I don't want to hear about it because it brings up such pain, and it'll cause the community to be chaotic again.'"

It took patience and persistence, but the Cambodian Americans began to support the museum, said Kompha Seth, the association's founder. "You can see the healing of the project, but the process to get here was painful," Seth said. He believes building the museum has pushed more people to talk about the Khmer Rouge.

The Cambodian communist group began a large-scale insurgency in 1970 and overthrew the Cambodian government five years later. It evacuated cities, closed schools and factories, and forced the population into labor camps, where hundreds of thousands died from starvation, disease, overwork and execution.

Lim was a medical student in the capital of Phnom Penh at the time. On April 17, 1975, he was forced from his home and into a labor camp, where he stayed until 1979. Then the Vietnamese invaded, essentially ending Khmer Rouge rule. Lim, his wife and her family walked for six weeks to the border of Thailand, and Lim spent the next three years in refugee camps working as a medic.

The family moved to the United States in 1981, and Lim now teaches at Northside College Preparatory High School.

"I just want people to be aware of our history and our story — that there were other genocides other than the Holocaust and Rwanda," said Lim's 23-year-old daughter, Thea, who helped do research for the memorial. "I want them to know how much they struggled in the Killing Fields — and here they are, standing tall and together again. And they survived."

Reward ! Wanted Alive !



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TO'Rourke@militarycars.com
DSN: 646-2932
Comm: 098-892-5111
EXT: 646-2932

Korea

George Johnson

gjohnson@militarycars.com
DSN: 721-7001-2
Comm: (02) 2270-7001~2

Guan

Brian Taylor

btaylor@militarycars.com
Comm: (671) 632-4344

YOUR MONEY

Shopping a second thought during election

Stores see sales slow down during larger news events

BY ANDREA K. WALKER

The (Baltimore) Sun

BALTIMORE — Some call it the "CNN effect."

Retailers experience a drop in activity during especially large news events.

"Election Day retailing is a very soft retailing day," said Britt Reemer, chairman of America's Research Group, which tracks shopping habits.

In an era of 24-hour news, consumers are often immune to the continual buzz of headlines, but some events carry enough suspense and anxiety to disrupt buying patterns. The terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001, and the U.S. launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom in mid-March 2003 froze normal patterns of commerce. Sometimes, events can freeze activity in just one region, such as the sniper attacks in and around Washington two years ago. Sports championships can consume a region, too, although they can also stimulate certain types of spending, such as at restaurants and sports merchandisers.

"Anytime consumers are distracted with world events, politics, sports or any other piece of news they become more focused

on finding out more information or educating themselves and they tend not to think as much about shopping," said Ellen Tolley, a spokeswoman for the National Retail Federation, a trade group in Washington. "When consumers become involved with other issues, shopping takes a back seat. It becomes a secondary activity."

The impact normally doesn't last long or hurt overall sales, experts said. In most years, shoppers are back to their old selves within a week after the election.

Not all retailers are affected, either. People won't stop buying necessities such as food and health supplies. People with birthdays this week still get presents, Tolley pointed out. Discretionary items such as a new winter coat or computer might get delayed.

"Shopping has become a social experience to some degree and people don't devote the effort when there is anything that has an impact on their free time and thoughts," said Fred Hurvitz, an instructor of marketing at the Smell College of Business at Pennsylvania State University.

"We notice certain types of retailers suffer when certain events



Clara Tuberville and Boyd Taliver, a married couple from Washington, D.C., shop at the Save-A-Lot grocery store in Capitol Heights, Md., in September. Although Americans won't stop buying food and health items, suspense and anxiety during a down-to-the-wire presidential campaign does interrupt shopping patterns.

are unfolding," Hurvitz said. "Necessities will sell regardless. A lot of discretionary items won't."

With the onslaught of candidate advertisements in broadcast and print media, retailers also have fewer ad outlets to lure shoppers, especially in the so-called "battleground states" where the candidates are jockeying for Electoral College votes.

"It's the constant bombardment of seeing nothing that is really marketing products but instead selling candidates, so you're not just focusing on things you're buying," Beemer said. "You're thinking about who you're going to vote for president."

Some retailers try to draw shoppers in with Election Day sales and many retailers figure they'll make up the numbers later in the month.

"Traffic may drop slightly, but not enough to impact overall sales," said Quinton Crenshaw, a spokesman for J.C. Penney Co. Inc.

Other observers maintain that the election, even a tense one, remains a strong day for shopping.

An analysis by Bain & Co. Inc. in New York found that holiday sales in past years have been greater during an election year, although they're not sure why. But the analysts also pointed out that factors such as a slow-back-to-school season may test the theory this year.

"An election is no guarantee for a great year for retailers," said Darrell Rigby, head of Bain's global retail practice. "When you look at back-to-school sales, utility costs, bankruptcies, debt levels and consumer confidence levels there's no guarantee of a great year."

We believe this year will be solid, but not as strong as last year."

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD 52-wk High	Low
10,815.83	9,856.50	Dow Jones Industrial	10,817.05	+101.31	+1.01	+101.31	+101.31
3,521.82	2,743.45	Dow Jones Transportation	3,494.64	+45.07	+1.31	+1,621	+1,621
13,491	24,125	Dow Jones Utilities	21,845	+5.53	+0.02	+1,077	+1,077
6,798.12	5,822.45	NYSE Composite	5,821.40	+65.93	+1.28	+5.39	+5,39
1,151.83	1,055.61	Russell 2000	1,055.61	+8.09	+0.77	+2.91	+2.91
2,153.83	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,084.33	+19.54	+0.98	+2.79	+2.79
1,153.21	1,011.20	S&P 500	1,143.20	+12.64	+1.11	+2.81	+2.81
1,184.66	945.26	S&P MidCap	991.61	+48.09	+4.84	+5.83	+5.83
596.42	515.90	Russell 2000	595.33	+3.89	+0.65	+10.47	+10.47
11,717.14	10,020.28	D. Wilshire 2000	11,204.79	+120.57	+1.07	+1.75	+1.75

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Volume	Net Chg
United	5,005,731	+1.43
Merck	4,076,787	+1.07
Amgen	296,416	+0.48
AMD	292,717	+1.18
Intel	264,642	+1.50
Time Warner	226,940	+1.59
Johnson & Johnson	119,979	+1.19
MetLife	108,943	+1.76
McKesson	106,939	+1.75

AMEX

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Volume	Net Chg
Goldman Sachs	1,059,811	+0.41
SPDR	738,095	+1.50
Bank of America	680,117	+1.18
Bank of America	580,117	+1.18
Bank of America	580,117	+1.18
Bank of America	580,117	+1.18
Bank of America	580,117	+1.18
Bank of America	580,117	+1.18
Bank of America	580,117	+1.18

NASDAQ

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Volume	Net Chg
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47
Microsoft	70,782	+0.47

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Nov. 5)	104.00
South Korean won (Nov. 4)	1,089.00
Euro (Nov. 4)	\$1.3122
British pound (Nov. 4)	\$1.50
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.5474
Canada (Dollar)	1.2684
Denmark (Krone)	\$1.6131
Egypt (Pound)	2.7201
Euro	\$1.2821
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7894
Hungary (Forint)	19.298
Israel (Shekel)	1.6625
Japan (Yen)	104.90
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2946
Norway (Krone)	4.6468
Philippines (Peso)	56.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6656
South Korea (Won)	1,089.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1938
Thailand (Baht)	1.1470
Turkey (Lira)	1,470,588.00
(Military exchange rates are those available to consumers at military facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.)	

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Auctioning items online

CRS MarketWatch
NEW YORK — You can make a bundle from selling your stuff on online auction sites.

If you don't have the time or experience to auction items yourself, try a service that will sell your items for you. Here are two such services:

■ **Auction Drop.** This service works with UPS for a commission of 20 percent to 38 percent on the item's selling price. To sell your items, fill out a form at www.auctiondrop.com. Drop your unpackaged items off at a participating UPS store and Auction Drop will take care of listing, selling and sending the items. You'll receive a check minus Auction Drop's take and e-Bay selling fees. If your item doesn't sell, it will be returned to you at no charge.

■ **Trading Assistants.** This e-Bay service pairs you with individual sellers on the auction Web site. Search for a trading assistant at www.ebay.com/ta by ZIP code or specialty. Each seller charges a different commission and has different guidelines for pickup or delivery. Trading assistants must be reputable sellers on e-Bay and must follow the Web site's guidelines for buying and selling.

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	FE	PE	Chg	YTD
Airbus Technologies	-	15	68.85	+2.48	+4.9
Boeing	-	19	38.19	+1.08	+6.0
Lockheed Martin	-	15	51.15	+1.24	+1.4
General Dynamics	-	14	34.45	+0.57	+1.0
Engineered Systems	-	34	21.51	+1.22	+7.2
General Electric	-	14	24.25	+0.14	+0.6
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0
General Electric	-	14	22.34	+0.28	+1.0

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	Div	NAV	Chg	YTD
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3
Fidelity Advisor: Tech	-	36.72	+3.54	+4.3

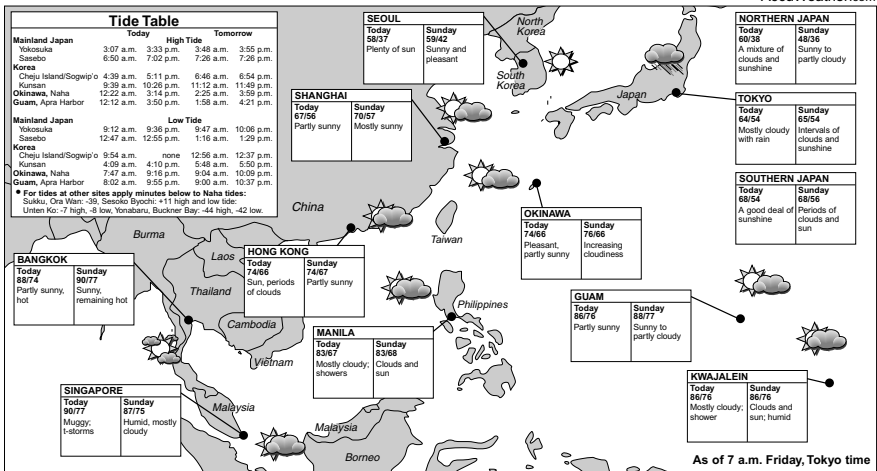
PRECIOUS METALS

Gold	\$240.69
Silver	\$7.145
Palladium	\$1,100.00
Platinum	\$1,100.00
Rhodium	\$1,100.00
Ruthenium	\$1,100.00
Selenium	\$1,100.00
Tellurium	\$1,100.00
Vanadium	\$1,100.00
Zinc	\$1,100.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.25
3-month bill	1.95
30-year bond	5.00
Sources:	The Associated Press, Bank of America

The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004
AccuWeather.com

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 64, low 55.
Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 66, low 55.

KADENA

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 77, low 68.
Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 79, low 71.

SEoul

Monday: Partly sunny, high 64, low 46.
Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 67, low 48.

MANILA

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 70.
Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 71.

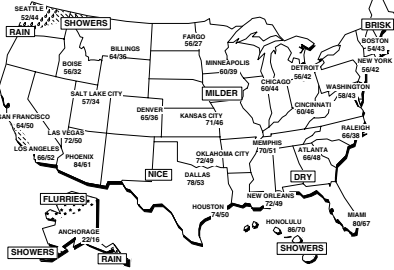
HAGATNA

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 77.
Tuesday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 78.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	63/37	Los Angeles	66/50
Amarillo	56/36	Louisville	62/40
Anchorage	22/13	Louisville	61/41
Ashville	64/39	Miami	80/70
Baltimore	50/42	Milwaukee	50/34
Birmingham	65/43	Nashville	60/40
Bismarck	52/25	New York	52/44
Boise	54/34	Omaha	56/34
Boston	49/43	Orlando	88/66
Brownsville	81/50	Philadelphia	51/44
Buffalo	47/36	Phoenix	81/55
Burlington	49/35	Pittsburgh	59/38
Charleston, SC	84/53	Portland, OR	56/36
Charlotte	62/44	Portland, ME	46/40
Cleveland	56/40	Salt Lake City	59/34
Columbus, OH	60/37	St. Louis	55/38
Duluth	48/30	San Antonio	79/44
El Paso	68/38	San Diego	67/54
Hartford	44/38	San Juan	87/76
Helena	44/18	Tampa	86/66
Indianapolis	55/36	Tulsa	61/38
Jacksonville	86/55	Washington	53/44
Kansas City	59/37	Wichita	61/36

Saturday, November 06



U.S. Extended Forecast

A large area of high pressure will promote dry weather Saturday for much of the country as the only precipitation found on the weather map will be in the extreme corners of the nation. In the Northeast, some flurries will occur far over New England in the wake of a storm system. Meanwhile, the end of a cold front will bring rain to the extreme Northwest and snow to the mountains of Washington and northern Idaho. Sunshine will continue to dominate the middle of the country Sunday.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/74	Iwakuni	68/52
Beijing	55/40	Kadena AB	74/66
Camp Casey	56/37	Kusan AB	59/45
Christchurch	70/54	Kwajalein	86/76
Diego Garcia	80/54	Manila	83/67
Hagatna	86/76	Misawa AB	61/41
Hanoi	79/63	Osaka	57/39
Hong Kong	74/66	Perth	64/46
Honolulu	86/70	Pusan	65/50
		Sasebo NB	68/55
		Sapporo	60/38
		Seoul	58/37
		Shanghai	67/56
		Singapore	90/77
		Sydney	76/54
		Taegu	63/45
		Taipei	76/61
		Tokyo	64/54

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	91/75	Budapest	48/32
Athens	68/56	Buenos Aires	70/50
Auckland	66/56	Cairo	88/63
Baghdad	77/48	Cancun	80/67
Barcelona	87/70	Cape Town	81/59
Berlin	63/48	Geneva	46/35
Bermuda	45/33	Istanbul	68/54
Brussels	72/62	Jerusalem	78/59
		Johannesburg	82/58
		Kabul	69/35
		Nairobi	74/48
		New Delhi	80/57
		Oslo	41/33
		Paris	43/46
		Rio de Janeiro	82/64
		St. Petersburg	45/30
		Stockholm	39/33
		Warsaw	39/26



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Student IDs required

MO **POPULAR BLUFF** — A new policy at a high school requiring students to wear identification badges has prompted some parents to complain and students to protest the move as an infringement on their rights.

The badges, which are identical to the IDs students always have been required to carry and use to check out library books at Poplar Bluff High School, are now required to be worn on campus during school hours.

"We need to be able to identify people without having to walk up to them and ask if they are a student or a teacher," said Sheldon Tyler, an assistant principal at the high school in this town of 16,700 about 150 miles south of St. Louis.

Some students have put stickers on their badges in protest — a policy the superintendent has permitted as an exercise in free speech. One father, John Durbin, withdrew his two daughters until he can talk to the school board about the policy.

Bridge arrests up

NY **NEW YORK** — Arrests have increased sharply due to a closer eye being kept on bridges and tunnels throughout the city. Authorities have made 1,070 arrests this year as of Oct. 21, a 145 percent increase over all of 2003 at nine crossings including the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, the Brooklyn Battery and the Queens midtown tunnel, the Daily News reported in Monday editions.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials said a larger presence at the crossings, better training and vehicle checkpoints all contributed to the increase.

Police at the crossings have made arrests for violations like drug possession, suspended licenses, and people who fled crime scenes.

"The officers have taken plenty of off the road and it makes it easier for the general public," said Joe Mauro president of the Bridge and Tunnel Officers Benevolent Association.

Near-record corn crop

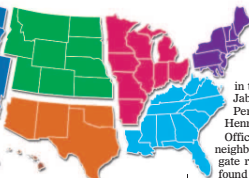
SD **ABERDEEN** — Although much of the corn crop remains in the field, officials estimate crops will yield an average of 120 bushels of corn an acre. The record average yield is 121 bushels an acre set in 1998.

The corn harvest has been slower this year because the crop is damp and needs to dry out.

Doctor suspended

RI **PROVIDENCE** — The state medical board has suspended a Providence obstetrician for misdiagnosing a woman's condition and falsifying her records.

Jason Bernstein had removed a 33-year-old woman's ovaries and uterus in an operation at Women & Infants Hospital in November 2003. The woman's blood pressure and hemoglobin dropped immediately after surgery, and her abdomen swelled, signs that she was bleeding internally. Bernstein ordered blood transfusions, but did not take the woman back into sur-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

gery.

Nurses and residents summoned another doctor, who operated on the woman hours later. She recovered.

The consent order also said Bernstein, 46, falsified the patient's records, when he wrote the woman's hemoglobin was stable, when records show it had dropped. The suspension is for a year, retroactive to January 2004.

Bush, Kerry monkeys

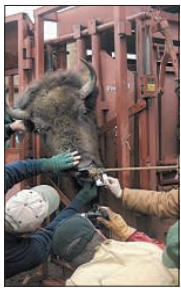
IA **DES MOINES** — Two baby marmosets, who made their debut at the Blank Park Zoo, have a good reason to remember this election season — they've been named George and John for President Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry.

"We wanted to find a unique way to commemorate the times the presidential candidates monkeyed around in Iowa," quipped Terry Rich, chief executive officer at the zoo. "This has been a wild campaign."

The tiny monkeys, born eight weeks ago, are twins — not that uncommon in marmosets, Rich said. They were kept under close watch until deemed healthy enough to put on exhibit, which just happened to fall on the eve of Tuesday's election.

Professor fatally shot

VA **RICHMOND** — A University of Richmond professor was found dead in his driveway



Dental visit

National Park Service personnel age the teeth of every bison and take photo documentation, which helps track herd health, near Watford City, N.D.

after a neighbor reported hearing gunshots, and police were investigating the death as a homicide.

Police had no suspects in the death of Fredric M. Jablin, 52, said Lt. Doug Perry, a spokesman for Henrico County police.

Officers were called by a neighbor Saturday to investigate reports of gunshots and found Jablin's body. His three children, ages 8, 12 and 15, were asleep inside the home and were unharmed.

An autopsy determined that he died of a gunshot wound to the torso.

Jablin was estranged from his wife, who lives in Texas, and the couple's children lived with him, Perry said. He was a management and communications specialist and an E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Chair with the private school's Jepson School of Leadership Studies. He joined the school in 1994.

Not-naked drivers

OR **EUGENE** — Forgive some women for being a tad bit miffed when the hunky men who had offered to drive them to polling stations arrived. After all, the men were fully clothed.

The plan had called for the men of Long Tom Grange — Oregon's best known nude calendar — to offer voters a free limo ride to ballot drop-off sites. The men made headlines last year when they bared all for a calendar benefiting local schools.

Linda Roberts was surprised when 66-year-old rancher John Lopes greeted her in jeans and a cowboy shirt. As Mr. May in the group's 2005 calendar, he wore only his belt and boots astride his horse.

The group had considered going topless.

"But it's too cold," Lopes confessed.

Tech fees at Fla. schools

FL **TAMPA** — Leaders of Florida's 11 public universities want to charge students fees that will pay for technology upgrades on their campuses.

The State University Presidents Association said the fee could pay for new computers, equipment and making campuses wireless. Fees would vary at each school, but the association has not determined exactly how much they would be, or how much money they would raise. At the University of South Florida, the fee could add up to \$100 to the average student's annual tuition bill.

Support for detectives

NH **MANCHESTER** — Police investigating the gruesome murder of a woman and her two children are getting some emotional support on the job.

Police Chief John Jaskolka has invited a special team to help his officers deal with what they saw when they discovered the bodies of Tricia Doyle and her two children stabbed to death last month. Jaskolka said the investigation has been hard on his detectives because many of them have young children of their own.



Painted sky
A windmill is silhouetted against stormy skies as a cold front moves through Jones County, Texas.



Puppy politics
Delaware State Sen. Colin Bonini, R-Dover, holds his dogs Baskin, right, and Robbins, while greeting voters at a polling place in Milford, Del.



Burst of flames A Little Rock, Ark., firefighter watches as colleagues spray water onto a gas line fire in Little Rock. Flames were leaping from an intersection in the city's west side.



Beach wheelers Elizabeth Goodchild, far right, of Essex, England, pushes Becky Roles, left, of Nottingham, England, while Katie Robinson, of Lancashire, England, zooms by on the beach near the boardwalk in Daytona Beach, Fla. The women were taking a break from their job in Orlando, where they are working a one-year internship with others from England.



Adorable alpacas Deborah Barone, owner of Kickapoo Creek Alpacas in Heyworth, Ill., feeds two of her alpacas as the new baby, Butternut, looks out to the field.

Critical Mass arrests

NY NEW YORK — Police arrested 33 people during a monthly bike ride that attracts hundreds of cyclists, a day after a federal judge ruled that the "Critical Mass" event did not need a parade permit.

Most of the bicyclists were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct for blocking automobile traffic, said Sgt. Michael Wysokowski, a police department spokesman.

The ride began at Union Square Park and headed north on Park Avenue, but eventually splintered into a few different groups.

Police, who were out in force, urged riders to stick to a specific route and passed out flyers which said cyclists could be arrested for violating traffic rules.

Between 1,000 and 1,200 cyclists took part in the ride, said Leah Korig, a volunteer with the group Time's Up, which advocates the monthly event. Many were dressed in costumes to mark Halloween.

Rx tape at school

TX SOUTHLAKE — An Election Day government lesson for some North Texas third-graders also included what school administrators said was a sexually explicit videotape.

Johnson Elementary School students were inadvertently shown part of the video as they were leaving an auditorium Tuesday after viewing the government tape.

Teachers had taken the students into the auditorium, ejected an unmarked tape from a video player and played the lesson on the three branches of government, Julie Thannum, a spokeswoman for the Carroll school district, said Wednesday.

Afterward, a teacher placed the original video into the videocassette recorder. That video, including pornographic images, began playing as teachers led students out of the auditorium.

Officials said the video was quickly stopped by teachers and that most students didn't see the few seconds of tape. Thannum said School Principal Jane Cousins turned the tape over to police and sent a note to parents Tuesday afternoon telling them about the mishap.

"It's certainly not anything appropriate to be on any of our campuses," said Thannum.

The video player had not been used since last month, when vandals had broken into the school last month, she said, and the tape might have been left behind then.

Funds misused

RI PROVIDENCE — The former president of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island used \$10,000 of the company's money to purchase two stones to honor his family at a local church.

The engraved stones are outside the St. Francis Chapel in downtown Providence. The engravings honor the former president's parents, Ray and Irene Battista, of Warwick. The payment was accounted for as "charitable contributions," The Providence Journal reported.

Board chairman Frank Montanaro told The Journal he was unaware of the contribution.

"That is something new. I wasn't aware of that. I don't think the board would be aware of that," he told the newspaper. "We don't micromanage the affairs of the company."

Battista resigned in May, after it became known he had received a \$600,000 to help pay for his divorce from his longtime wife and other perks from the nonprofit insurer, the largest in Rhode Island.

E. coli outbreak

NC RALEIGH — At least seven people, most of them children, have been infected by E. coli in an outbreak that may point to the North Carolina State Fair's petting zoo.

State health officials alerted physicians, health departments and hospitals to be on the lookout for more cases. Doctors were awaiting test results in several other suspected cases. Health officials urged parents to seek sick children at home.

Nearly all the confirmed cases are children. State Fair officials have tried to alert the owners of the petting-zoo animals, R.W. Comerford and Sons of Connecticut, a potential problem. These animals — goats, lambs, pigs and a few zebras and antelope — travel the fair circuit up and down the East Coast, State Fair manager Wesley Wyatt said.

Mafia estate for sale

AZ TUCSON — The house of the late boss of the Mafia's New York-based Bonanno crime family is for sale on eBay.

The estate of Joseph Bonanno is asking \$495,000 for his Tucson home, where he lived from 1972 until his death in 2002. Bonanno is widely acknowledged as the direct inspiration for the "Godfather" series of movies.

Trees lose water war

CA LA QUINTA — A conservancy group is going to war with water-sucking, nonnative tamarisk trees in the Santa Rosa Mountains.

Volunteers will hike into Bear Canyon this weekend to chop down the trees that are sapping water that could be used by bighorn sheep and other wildlife. A tamarisk, also known as a salt cedar, can use 200 gallons of water a day.

Attempted candy theft

CT SIMSBURY A 12-year-old boy hung onto his pillowcase filled with Halloween candy despite being beaten and dragged nearly 100 feet by two teenagers who tried to steal the loot, police said.

The boy, who was wearing a costume, was trick or treating Sunday night on Phelpscoff Road when two teenagers carrying skateboards beat, kicked and dragged him, police said.

Police arrested the two teens about a half-hour after the incident.

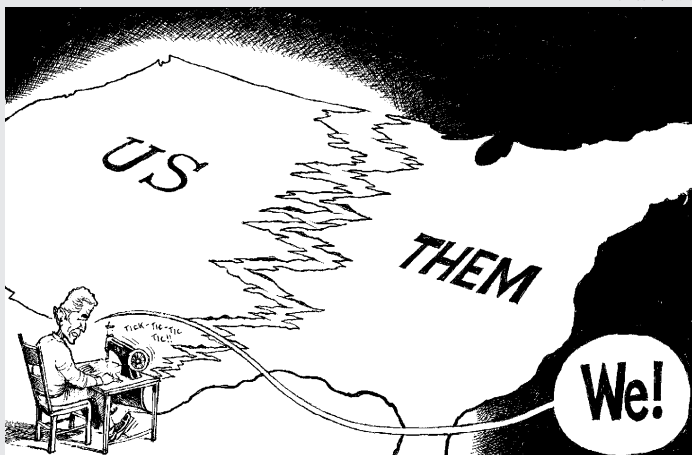
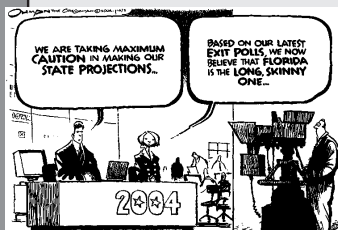
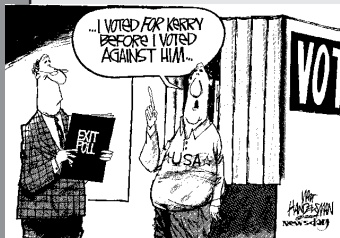
One 16-year-old suspect was charged with second-degree robbery, third-degree assault and attempted larceny. The other teen, a 15-year-old, was referred to juvenile court.

The 12-year-old victim did not require hospitalization but was sore from his injuries, police said.

Stories and photos from wire services

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Horoscope

We may say we're looking for spontaneous fun (especially now that Mercury is transiting through the sign of the Virgo moon, we're really more comfortable with a kind of planned spontaneity — sort of like the loose script producers give to people on reality shows. Be careful not to stifle creativity in the process.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER 6. You're living life full this year, so you can expect your activities will be more colorful, varied and meaningful. Give in to a whim this month, and it leads straight to an extra source of income. Friends may be jealous of what you accomplish in December, so be sure to stay modest. You have a special connection with Aries and Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're concerned with issues of credibility. Check out the people you're dealing with to be sure they're on the level. Don't try too hard to convince others of your legitimacy, though, or you'll seem fishy!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Give difficult people a second chance. Things work out better this year. A Chinese proverb says: There is but one pretty child in the world, and every parent has it. Be sure to praise and acknowledge children appropriately.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Timing is crucial. Pick up the phone, and check e-mail often. Being there for your loved ones is the most significant gift you can give them now. Nothing is more important than showing up when your people would like you to be there.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You'll be the hero if you don't go for the quick fix. Make sure that what you're in charge of gets done the right way, even if it costs a little more. People ask for help, but be judicious. Don't throw your pearls to swine.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Think of a goal you have had but not started on, and do some initial

brainstorming about what it might take to get this show on the road. Use paper and pen! Until you've got some intentions in writing, you've got nothing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're lucky! Be careful not to get complacent, though.

Self-development is essential if you want to evolve. It is too easy to put the responsibility in someone else's hands (the state lottery for instance).

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Part of you is wise to wait the future brings, but the larger part of you is busy finding distractions. In doing so, you're able to deny that soon the hour will be upon you. Instead, make the effort to face impending situations head on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Groups probably won't function as well as they should now due to the fact that nobody wants to take charge. If you can't be the leader, make sure you at least do something to make the leader more accountable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Family dynamics are heightened. There are politics involved even between siblings and parents. Tricky situations require negotiation on your part. Stand back and study this for a while.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Sparks fly between you and that special someone. Does this mean love? Well, it certainly means something, but be careful not to mistake physical chemistry for emotional commitment. The two are quite different!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're trying to be stronger in your convictions and more disciplined in your activities. But the company you keep could cause counterproductive behavior on the self-improvement front. Recognize weakness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Things could get boring unless you're willing to shake it up and see life in a new way. Take a step back, and view your choices from a philosophical standpoint. You're guided by principles.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



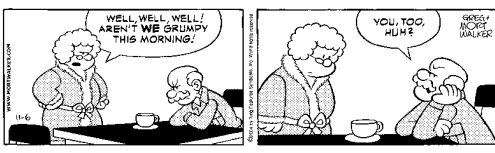
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



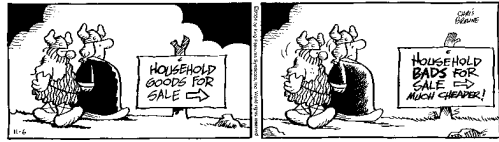
Blondie



Dilbert



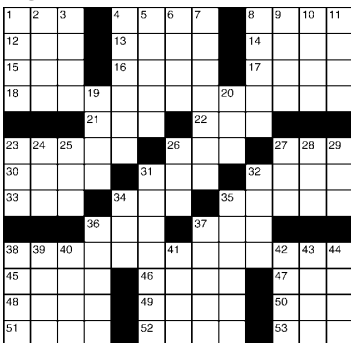
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Icy-bitsy
- 4 Fedora feature
- 8 Crazy
- 12 Aries
- 13 Modicum
- 14 Toast topper
- 15 Body part
- 16 Punch
- 17 Prospector's hope
- 18 Isn't steady?
- 19 DDE opponent
- 22 Weeding tool
- 23 Bee's product
- 26 Bee's product
- 27 Spigot
- 30 Incite
- 31 Festive
- 32 Leslie Caron film
- 33 Even the slightest
- 34 Not very interesting
- 35 Bourbon recipe
- 36 Derivative exclamation
- 37 Fa follower
- 38 Takes a big risk
- 45 Hideaway
- 46 Zhivago's love
- 47 Benicio — Toro
- 48 Nigate
- 49 Cardinal O'Connor's successor
- 50 "A mouse!"
- 51 Penn or Young
- 52 Low
- 53 Commercials
- 2 Dixie Chicks' "Goodbye —"
- 3 Jane Austen heroine
- 4 "The Deep" actress
- 5 Hollywood
- 6 Prunitus
- 7 Take advantage of the situation
- 8 Orphaned calf
- 9 Lotion additive
- 10 Toppled
- 11 Film director
- 12 Solondz
- 19 Bush and Clinton common
- 20 "Arrested Development" network
- 23 Sine-nu link
- 24 Columbarium item
- 25 July 1957 to Dec. 1958, in sci. news
- 26 Method
- 27 Up to (Var.)
- 28 Time of your life?
- 29 "Great Expectations" hero
- 31 Made an animal sound
- 32 Wide gap
- 34 Two, in Tijuana
- 35 Part of J.S.B.
- 36 "Darkness" poet
- 37 Back-breaker?
- 38 Asset
- 39 Freeway division
- 40 Verdi opera
- 41 Othello's foe
- 42 Concept
- 43 Saxophonist's need
- 44 Mooselike herd

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Down

- 1 Preparation for shipment

11-6 CRYPTOQUIP

PE Z MNGBIXF QXOPQXY

KV JV EVF YVBXKDPWJ

FPLYR, OVGNO RVG YZR

DX KZLXY KDX MNGWJXF?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: SOME WESTERN TOWN RESIDENTS BECAME MORE COURAGEOUS, CREATING A BOLDER COLORADO.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals R

Attachment to dog is unnerving

Dear Abby: My mother, who is in her late 70s, lives alone with her standard poodle, Bonaparte. She refuses to go anywhere unless we agree that Bonaparte can go, too.

When one of us offers to take her to dinner, the poodle would be the car. She won't visit family members either, unless Bonaparte is welcome.

For Mother's birthday, I planned a special outing at a lovely restaurant and a matinee performance of a show that was in town. Mamma refused to go unless we took the dog. It wasn't appropriate, so I told her no. She refused to go and is still mad at me.

How can I make my mother realize that the dog is an animal companion, and there are times when she needs to enjoy the company of people sans her dog?

— Had It Up To Here in New Jersey

Dear Had It: Some people are

so fond of their pets they are reluctant to part with them, even temporarily.

Your mother appears to be one of them. She has made her feelings clear, and I doubt anyone — myself included — could convince her to socialize without him. (Feelings are not always rational.) Since you can't teach an old dog new tricks, when you invite your mother and the dog out, make sure there is plenty of air circulating in the car and a water bowl so Bonaparte will be safe and comfortable.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: My beloved 8-year-old niece, "Emily," has expressed that she's embarrassed to be seen with me because I am "so big." I'm aware that children are easily embarrassed by differences, be it someone using a cane, someone with a foreign accent, or someone who is fat like me. I don't want to embarrass

Emily on the days that I pick her up from school, but I also don't want to condone her attitude about "fat people" by hiding in the car.

How can I expect an 8-year-old to be free of prejudice when even supposedly mature adults expect all women to be slim-slender-thin-petite? I know Emily loves me; she just doesn't want people to see us together in public. What advice have you for us?

— Concerned in New Mexico

Dear Concerned: Under no circumstances should you hide. Remind your niece that there is more to a person than just the package — that when you love someone, you accept that person for who he or she is, not how he or she looks.

Emily may be only 8, but she's old enough to learn that lesson.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POUMI

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ORNOH

PHUDEL

NARTTY

ANSWER: " " " " IT

Yesterday's Jumbles: LUNGE DUNCE OBTUSE FORBID

Answer: You might say that lying in the shade turned the steer into this — "GROUND" BEEF

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



WHAT THE POLLITICIAN DID WHEN HE HOSTED THE FUND RAISER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Long-distance relationship dead

Dear Annie: I am 40 and never married (I still reside at home). I have been in a long-distance relationship with "Emil" for six years.

During this time, there have been many ups and downs, and the down times were miserable. Though there has been no formal commitment (engagement or relocation), we have remained together and see each other a few days every month.

Lately, I'm beginning to believe Emil may not be the person I am supposed to live my life with. I recently met someone at a party whose company I enjoyed very much. It made me wonder if the attraction was simply the newness of feeling desirable or if it was an indication that I am not as committed to Emil as I thought.

I know my family will not be pleased if I break up with Emil. They think he's great. I want to do the right thing and not hurt anyone. I would like to get to know this new person better. Maybe it

Annie's Mailbox



will go further, maybe not, but I don't want to sneak around. At the same time, I realize I cannot have my cake and eat it, too. Can you give me some advice? — Desperate in the City

Dear Desperate: You've given Emil six years to make you feel that your relationship has a solid future, but it hasn't happened. You are a grown woman, and your decisions should be your own.

Don't let your parents' opinions dictate your happiness. If you are attracted to someone else, it's time to tell Emil that you think the two of you should date others.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the writer from Canada who couldn't find the "pound" key on her telephone. Give me a break! I don't think valuable newspaper space should be devoted to such idiots.

— Disappointed in Michigan

Dear Michigan: You'd be surprised how many people, especially the elderly, do not know where the pound key is. We felt the space was well used if we helped pass along information readers were too embarrassed to ask anyone else. And surprising by a lot of readers are more interested in this than we thought. Read on:

Dear Annie: In the part of the country where I grew up, absolutely no one called this a pound sign. It was the number-mark, or number-symbol.

— HSV

Dear Annie: In some countries, such as Japan, that key is called a "sharp," which is a musical term.

— E.V.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the *Ann Landers* column. Please e-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate



"Daddy! You're fallin' me down!"

GRAFFITI!

SOME LOVERS GO THE WAY OF OLD FRIENDS

MBA 1/6

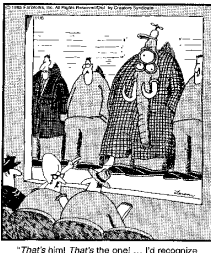
Dennis the Menace



"GOD MUST'VE TAKEN LOTS OF ART LESSONS!"

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"That's him! That's the one! ... I'd recognize that silly little hat anywhere!"

Non Sequitur



REMEMBER, EARL! WHAT HAPPENS IN OLD NANNY'S STAYS IN OLD NANNY'S.

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RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Fitting big shoes for Little E

Eury Sr. has been a guiding force behind Earnhardt Jr.'s race team

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

The career of NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt Jr. was just taking off when his father was killed in the 2001 Daytona 500.

Dale Sr., known as The Intimidator, was not a warm, cuddly guy.

He had not always been close to his children, but Earnhardt left no doubt he was proud of his youngest son and was doing everything he could to help Junior move up the ladder in what was then the Winston Cup.

With the elder Earnhardt gone, there was a big void to fill in Little E's life. Into that breach stepped his uncle, Tony Eury.

"There's a kinship," Junior said. "We don't always see eye to eye on everything, but I know he cares about me as a person and I know he isn't going to send me out there in something that isn't safe or isn't right."

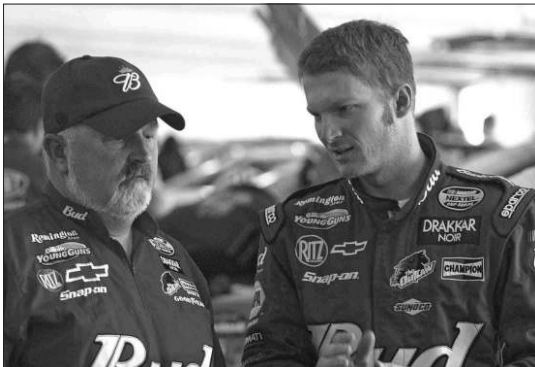
"We have a connection that not every driver has with his crew chief, because he's family."

Eury, whose own son, Tony Jr., is Dale Jr.'s car chief and one of his best friends, has been a fixture in Earnhardt's life.

He was crew chief for the elder Earnhardt's Busch teams, then took over as crew chief for Junior when he arrived in the Busch Series, helping the youngster to consecutive championships in 1998 and 1999. When Junior moved up to Cup in 2000, Eury came with him.

"It wasn't always easy," said Eury, who is known by nearly everyone as Tony Sr.

"Sometimes, he didn't want to hear what I had to say and sometimes he just had to do something to see if he could do it. There were times we didn't like each other



Dale Earnhardt Jr., right, talks with his crew chief, Tony Eury Sr., following a practice session at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 10. Eury has been Earnhardt's crew chief for his entire NASCAR career.

very much, but that's the way families are sometimes. You get through it."

As Earnhardt has turned into a legitimate championship contender, Eury has gained respect inside what is now the Nextel Cup garage, as well as earning considerable credibility with the fans, who recently voted the quiet stocky man with the snow white beard the 2004 Wynn's Wipers Crew Chief of the Year.

Junior said it's about time everybody else figured out what he already knew.

"Tony Sr. is one heck of a crew

*"We have
a connection
that not every
driver has with
his crew chief,
because he's
family."*

Dale Earnhardt Jr.

chief," he said. "He has been around this sport for a long time. He's kind of old timey, but he understands how things work and how to get the job done."

"He paid his dues like everybody else without getting a lot of credit. He's worked hard to get his credibility and talent to a higher level, and I'm proud of him."

Heading into Sunday's Checker Auto Parts 500 at Phoenix International Raceway, Earnhardt is fifth, trailing leader Kurt Busch by 98 points in the championship Chase.

Two weeks ago in Martinsville, Earnhardt had severe handling problems and wound up finishing 33rd when the rear end broke in his No. 8 Chevrolet.

Last Sunday at Daytona, Earnhardt appeared headed for at least a top-five finish when he collided late in the race with rookie Carl Edwards. He wound up 33rd again, but still gained ground on Busch, whose blown engine relegated him to a 42nd-place finish.

"My job at the shop is to keep the people we have happy and pumped up," Eury said. "The hardest part of the job is the people. Right now we've got a good group of people and, hopefully, we can keep them all together."

"We had a blow last week, but we've been pumping them all week [and telling them] that we can still do this and that nobody should get down. Hopefully we can pull it off."

Eury expects Junior and the whole Dale Earnhardt Inc. team to bounce back in Phoenix, where Earnhardt won last fall.

"We thought last year would be our year and we kind of got disappointed," he said. "This year, we kind of slumped in the center and then we kind of got back going again. So now we got back into these last 10, we started performing good every week and got on race tracks that Dale Jr. liked and had a lot of hopes of us pulling it off."

"These last couple of races put us under a lot of heat, but we're determined to win a Nextel Cup. We've got our work cut out for us because our goal now is to lead as many laps as we can and win every race we can, because that's the only way we've got a chance."

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 34: Checker Auto Parts 500, 5 a.m. Monday, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Jimmie Johnson is the first Cup racer since 1998 to win three straight races and closed within 59 points of standings leader Kurt Busch after taking the Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Last year: Dale Earnhardt Jr. kept his slim championship hopes alive by winning the Checker Auto Parts 500, his second victory of 2003.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Jimmie Johnson has roared back into the Nextel Cup chase with three consecutive wins, three races from a one-nothing week. After a straight jump in the race for his first Nextel Cup title.

Kurt Busch has seen his move into fourth place in the standings with his run-up showing races at Atlanta last week. After a barefoot finish in Phoenix, he's qualifying for his first Nextel Cup title.

Mark Martin moved into fourth place in the standings with his run-up showing races at Atlanta last week. After a barefoot finish in Phoenix, he's qualifying for his first Nextel Cup title.

Nextel Cup qualifying record: Rusty Wallace, 134.718 mph, 2000.

Nextel Cup race record: Tony Stewart, 118.132 mph, Nov. 7, 1999.

FAST FACTS

Kurt Busch, who had a 222-point lead in August, has had engine failure in three straight races. ... Jeff Gordon won four straight races in 1998. ... NASCAR fined Rusty Wallace \$10,000 on Tuesday for intentionally hitting Ryan Newman's car as the field returned to pit lane following the Oct. 24 race at Martinsville.

BUSCH SERIES

Next race: Darlington 200, Nov. 12, Darlington, S.C.

POINTS RACE

- After 33 of 36 races**
1. Kurt Busch 6,052
 2. Jimmie Johnson 5,993
 3. Jeff Gordon 5,980
 4. Mark Martin 5,971
 5. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 5,954
 6. Tony Stewart 5,907
 7. Ryan Newman 5,866
 8. Elliott Sadler 5,815
 9. Matt Kenseth 5,795
 10. Jeremy Mayfield 5,736
 11. Jamie McMurray 4,195
 12. Dale Jarrett 3,974
 13. Casey Kahne 3,915
 14. Kevin Harvick 3,867
 15. Bobby Labonte 3,864
 16. Jeff Burton 3,593
 17. Michael Waltrip 3,590
 18. Rusty Wallace 3,558
 19. Joe Nemechek 3,522
 20. Sterling Marlin 3,522

This week: Bass Pro Shops Supermarkets 200 at Daytona. Matt Kenseth held off Kyle Busch in a two-lap sprint to win the Aaron's 312 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. **Last year:** Bobby Hamilton Jr. won the race. **Next race:** Darlington 200, Nov. 12, Darlington, S.C. **Fast facts:** Series leader Matt Truex Jr. finished ninth at Atlanta, but still has a 10-point lead over Busch with three races left. ... Kenseth, the 2003 Nextel Cup champion, has three Busch victories this season. ... Busch remains one top-10 finish shy of Greg Biffle's rookie record of 21 set in 2001.

Next race: South Carolina 200, Nov. 13, Darlington, S.C.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: Chevy Silverado 350 at Atlanta. Matt Kenseth, 5 p.m. Saturday, AFN-Sports. **Last year:** Matt Kenseth became the eighth driver in NASCAR history to win in the Cup series, the Busch series and in a truck after taking the Kroger 200 in Martinsville, Va., on Oct. 23. **Next year:** Kevin Harvick held off Matt Kenseth and won the Silverado 350 for his second victory in 81 career Busch starts.

CHAMP CARS

Next race: Darlington 200, Nov. 12, Darlington, S.C.

This week: Camp. Premio Telmes Tecate at Mexico City. (Tape-delayed, 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, AFN-Sports). **Last race:** Bruno Junqueira spoiled his bid for a second consecutive victory by winning the Lexmark Indy 300 in Australia on Oct. 24. **Next race:** Sebring 125, Nov. 13, Sebring, Fla. **Fast facts:** Junqueira dominated the race, leading 119 of 124 laps. He also won a circuit-race crowd of 22,011 and moved closer to his first championship.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Juan Pablo Montoya won in his final race for Williams-BMW, beating future Formula One star Kimi Raikkonen in the Brazilian Grand Prix on Oct. 24.

INDY RACING

Last race: Helio Castroneves picked up his first win in 10 races by taking the Indy 300 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Series champion Tony Stewart won the 100th running of the race, but he was the first driver in any major series to complete every lap of a season.

Mets tap Randolph; Phils hire C. Manuel

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Willie Randolph is moving across town.

The longtime New York Yankees coach was hired Wednesday night by the Mets, taking over as manager of a troubled team trying to compete with its crossstown rival for success, free agents and fans.

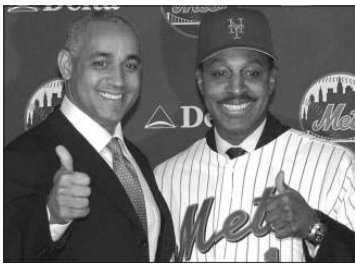
Randolph takes over from Art Howe, fired at the end of the season. The six-time All-Star was introduced Thursday during a news conference at Shea Stadium.

He was with his family when he found out the news. "We just did cartwheels," Randolph said. "We've been waiting a while for this opportunity and it's finally here."

Filling the other remaining managerial opening, Charlie Manuel was to be introduced Thursday by the Philadelphia Phillies as the replacement for Larry Bowa, who was fired on the final weekend of the season. The 60-year-old Manuel, who managed Cleveland from 2000-02, is well respected but unproven as a coach. He has never managed a club that hasn't reached the playoffs since 1993.

Also Wednesday, Houston removed the interim tag from manager Art Glavin, who took over from Jimmy Williams at the All-Star break and led the Astros to the playoffs. Garner received a two-year contract with a team option for 2007.

In New York, Randolph met



New York Mets General Manager Omar Minaya, left, poses with Willie Randolph, who was hired Thursday as the new manager of the Mets.

Wednesday with new general manager Omar Minaya, who also had two interviews with the other finalists, Texas hitting coach Rudy Jaramillo and former Houston and Anaheim manager Terry Collins.

Randolph was a standout second baseman who spent 13 seasons with the Yankees, winning World Series titles as a player in 1977 and 1978, plus four more as a coach. He also played for Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Oakland and Milwaukee before finishing his career with the Mets in 1992.

"He's a New Yorker and a winner," Minaya said Thursday. "Randolph said last month he had interviewed unsuccessfully in the past for 11 or 12 managerial openings."

"I thought it was very beneficial to have this second round," Minaya said late in the afternoon, before the deal was finalized. "It gives me a better feel for the decision I have to make."

At that time, Minaya wouldn't identify the front-runner, but his description of what he wanted fit Randolph perfectly.

"I'm looking for a person, a manager, that's going to have good work ethics, going to communicate with the players, com-

municate with the front office on a daily basis," Minaya said. "I'm looking for a manager that's going to be able to delegate to the staff. I'm looking for a manager that's going to interact with the community."

Minaya's new manager will have a year-round job, talking frequently with the minor league staff and farm director and visiting instructional and winter leagues during the offseason. The 39-year-old Randolph moved to bench coach under manager Joe Torre last season after 10 years coaching third base for the Yankees.

"I'm looking for a guy at the end of the day that has leadership qualities," Minaya said.

Randolph nearly was hired by Cincinnati after the 2000 season but withdrew from consideration after the Reds offered a relatively short contract at a below-market salary.

He becomes the fourth baseball manager in major league baseball, which has been criticized for some of a lack of blacks in management positions. The others currently managing are the Chicago Cubs' Dusty Baker, the Expos' Frank Robinson and Pittsburgh's Lloyd McClendon.

Spurrier says 'No' to replacing Zook

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — If Steve Spurrier decides to coach again, it won't be at his alma mater.

Spurrier withdrew his name from consideration Thursday to replace Ron Zook, saying his time at Florida has passed.

The announcement relieves reservations boosters and school officials had regarding Spurrier's potential return. It also opens a coaching search that was widely considered Spurrier's to lose.

"He said he's done his thing here and he just thinks it's better for us to go find a coach who will be here for the next 10 or 15 years," athletic director Jeremy Foley said.

The Gators won six Southeastern Conference championships and the 1996 national title under Spurrier. He posted 122 victories over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

Zook, hired in 2002 after Spurrier left to coach the Washington Redskins, was fired last week after the latest in a series of embarrassing losses — a 38-31 defeat by lowly Mississippi State.

Spurrier quit the Redskins after two losing seasons, and indicated last week he would consider a return to Gainesville.

Foley and Spurrier exchanged several phone messages, trying to set up an interview with school president Bernie Machen after the season.

"They were obviously making an effort to meet with me," Spurrier said in a statement.

But Spurrier's message ended all speculation about his return.

"When I departed three years ago, there were several reasons why I believed it was time to

move on," Spurrier said. "Other than simply wanting to coach in the NFL, someday, I also believed that 12 years at Florida was probably long enough."

There have been concerns among some of the school's top boosters that Spurrier's return would be a step back and eventually would leave the program in another tough situation — trying to replace a coaching great.

They felt Spurrier would never be able to regain the glory of the 1990s, and they openly questioned his desire to recruit and his motivation for returning.

Some also were still upset over the way Spurrier left Florida, calling Foley from his beach house and dropping the news in the middle of recruiting season.

Nonetheless, they knew there was a chance Spurrier's return would restore credibility and championships to the program.

Now, that task will fall to someone else.

Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, Utah's Urban Meyer and Cal's Jeff Tedford are considered possible candidates.

Stoops, who spent three seasons as Spurrier's defensive coordinator at Florida, has repeatedly denied interest in the Gators job. But Stoops might reconsider with his old boss out of the mix.

Machen hired Meyer at Utah in December 2002, and Meyer's diverse offense would be welcome in Gainesville after Zook failed with his NFL-style approach. But Meyer has no ties to Florida, which would make recruiting tough.

Tedford has spent his entire career on the West Coast, but he could be the perfect blend between Spurrier and Zook. His quarterback-tailored system has turned Cal into one of the top offenses in the nation, and his recruiting efforts match anyone else's in the country.

Nets' Frank gets extension

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — New Jersey Nets coach Lawrence Frank signed a four-year, \$10 million contract extension on Wednesday.

The deal was announced by the team Thursday, about 12 hours after the worst opening-night loss in Nets' history, 100-70 to Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat. Frank took over the Nets mid-way through last season after Byron Scott was fired and won his first 13 games, a record. Frank negotiated the extension himself with help from advisers.

"I feel very comfortable with Lawrence as the coach," Nets President Rod Thorn said. "Lawrence will coach our team as well as it can be coached. I don't have any problems with that."

Frank, who posted a 25-15 record in leading the Nets to the Eastern Conference semifinals, faces a major challenge in guiding a team that was dismantled in the offseason. Kenyon Martin was traded to Denver in a salary-cap move, Kerry Kittles was

Sports briefs

shipped to the Los Angeles Clippers and Jason Kidd is starting the season on the injured list, recovering from knee surgery in July.

Saint Louis hoops coach signs five-year contract

ST. LOUIS — Saint Louis University signed men's basketball coach Brad Soderberg to a five-year contract.

The agreement, announced Thursday, means Soderberg will coach the Billikens through the 2008-09 season. Terms were not announced.

Turin Olympic chief to resign

ROME — Just 15 months before the start of the Olympic Winter Games, the chief organizer of the 2006 event in Turin is quitting in a power struggle with the Italian government.

Valentino Castellani, head of or-

ganizing committee TOROC, said Thursday he will submit his resignation during a board meeting on Nov. 24. Castellani said he felt undermined by the government's nomination of Mario Pescante, culture ministry undersecretary and former head of the Italian Olympic Committee, as overall supervisor for the Feb. 10-26, 2006 Games.

Roddick, Henman upset in Paris Masters

PARIS — Top-seeded Andy Roddick and defending champion Tim Henman were upset in the third round of the Paris Masters on Thursday.

Roddick lost 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 to qualifier Max Mirnyi and Henman was beaten 7-5, 6-1 by unseeded Mikhail Yuzynsky.

GM won't supply IRL engines

INDIANAPOLIS — General Motors will stop supplying Chevrolet engines to the Indy Racing League for the 2005 season, ending the circuit's falling TV ratings and expensive competition from Honda and Toyota.

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Clarke, Kelly, Haas lead PGA Tour Championship

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Not everyone wants to see Vijay Singh win his 10th tournament of the year. Three guys who shared the lead Thursday in the Tour Championship would be thrilled to win their first.

Darren Clarke, Jerry Kelly and 50-year-old Jay Haas each had a 3-under 67 in a soggy, blustery and entertaining first round at East Lake.

"I've had a very poor year," Clarke said. "We all play to win, and I haven't managed to do that this year so far."

Singh has won nine times, and he put himself in position to become the first player since 1950 to reach double digits. Despite going 16 holes without a birdie, the Fijian recovered from enough missed shots for a 69.

"It was a day where you just have to manage yourself, get around, not get too far from the lead," Singh said.

And for those who wondered how marriage would change Tiger Woods, he still can't hit a fairway. In his first tournament since getting married, Woods struggled off the tee and out of the rough, finishing with a 72.

Entertainment came from

Ernie Els, who broke his putter while slamming an 8-iron into his bag and finished the round putting with his sand wedge. He also had a 72.

"I wasn't making putts. I figured I might as well use the sand wedge," Els said. "That didn't work, either."

The 67 was the highest score to lead the Tour Championship in the four years it has been held at East Lake. Only 13 players among the top 31 on the money list managed to break par.

And no one was surprised. Heavy rain Thursday morning turned fairways into small rivers, but a new drainage system at East Lake allowed the season-ending tournament to start on time. It dried so well that tour officials decided to play the ball as it lies, leaving players to face several shots with mud splattered on their golf balls.

Then came wind, whistling through the trees and making the closing holes even tougher. Perhaps it was no coincidence that the trio in the lead had earlier starting times.

Either that, or they know this is their last chance to win.

Haas has gone 11 years without a victory, although he wouldn't trade his season. He became the second-oldest player in the Ryder Cup.



Jerry Kelly experiences some anxiety after hitting his tee shot on the 18th hole on Thursday. He made par on the hole.

He nearly found the cup on the fly with a 6-iron on the par-3 11th, making a 12-footer. He surged into a share of the lead with a 5-wood into 15 feet on the par-5 15th to make eagle.

"I'm weak, short, slow, whatever," Haas said. "In the field of athletics, I would not be the favorite by any means. But there's no defense out here, so that's the good thing for me."

David Toms and Zach Johnson each shot 68, while the group at 69 included John Daly, Mike Weir and Padraig Harrington. A victory by Harrington would make him a PGA Tour member and send Tag Ridings — No. 125 on the money list — back to Q-school. It also would knock Jesper Parnevik (No. 40) out of the Masters.

Steelers' Maddox accepts demotion

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Tommy Maddox isn't disappointed that rookie Ben Roethlisberger took advantage of Maddox's injury to seize the starting job.

"I don't sweat it too much," Maddox said Wednesday. "I know things happen for a reason, and we'll figure out what that reason is. I'll just go out there and do my job, work as hard as I can and try to help this team win any way I can."

Coach Bill Cowher made official Tuesday what has been a given for weeks: Roethlisberger will remain the starter even after Maddox is healthy. Maddox is listed as questionable for Sunday's game against Philadelphia.

After Maddox tore an elbow tendon Sept. 19 in Baltimore, Roethlisberger stepped in to lead the Steelers (6-1) to five consecutive victories as a starter.

Jags LB Smith might be out, RB Taylor back for Nov. 14

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Starting linebacker Darryl Smith has a partially torn ligament in his left knee and might miss the Jacksonville Jaguars' game Nov. 14 against Detroit.

Running back Fred Taylor should be ready for that game.



Taylor missed the second half of last week's game with a hip pointer. He also strained a quadriceps muscle the week before against Indianapolis.

Vikings LB Smith sidelined

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings linebacker Ronal Smith will miss Monday's game at Indianapolis due to lingering effects from a concussion.

Rookie Dontarrious Thomas, who has split time between middle and outside linebacker this season, will start Monday night. Linebacker Chris Claiborne will miss at least another week with a strained calf.

Running back Mewelde Moore, who leads the team with 376 rushing yards, might miss Monday's game with a sprained left ankle.

Carolina RB Davis practices for second consecutive day

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Running back Stephen Davis practiced for the second consecutive day Thursday, leaving Carolina hopeful he can play this weekend.

Davis has missed five games this year with a knee injury.

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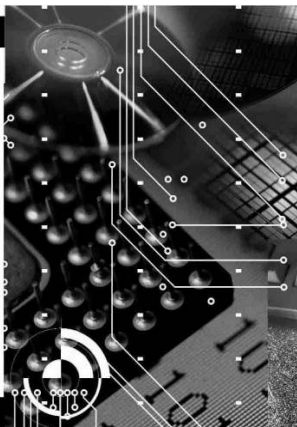


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Francis lifts new-look Magic to victory in season opener

Former Rocket scores game-winner against Bucks

BY MIKE BRANOM

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic are off to a good start in their quest to erase bad memories.

Steve Francis made a winning layup with two-tenths of a second remaining in his Orlando debut to lead the new-look Magic to a 93-92 victory Wednesday night over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Francis, acquired in an offseason trade, finished with 26 points. Grant Hill added 20 in his return from a 21-month layoff due to injury. Top draft pick Dwight Howard had 12 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks.

For a franchise trying to shake off a 61-loss nightmare season, this thrilling victory was the ideal way to start.

"That's a good opening night when you have a game like that, and you pull it off and win," Orlando coach Johnny Davis said. "It certainly sets things off on a positive direction."

The Bucks took a 92-91 lead on Michael Redd's banked-in jumper with 3.5 seconds to play in their opener. Redd finished with 19 points.

On the final possession, Hill inbounded from the left side to Francis. He beat Mo Williams on the turn to the basket and got the shot off despite being fouled.

"I've hit some shots in my career, but I think this one is even more special being that this is my first official game for the organization," said Francis, part of a seven-player swap that sent disgruntled star Tracy McGrady to Houston.

That made highlighted the Magic's massive overhaul during the summer. Orlando has just four players remaining from April's roster.

"The guys in the locker room now don't have a reference point for what happened last year," Davis said. "We don't even talk about what happened last year. Last year is gone."

The buzzer sounded as Francis' shot fell, and the Magic celebrated before racing off the court when they saw the officials consulting.

"They heard the horn go off, so as far as I was concerned the game was over," Davis said.

But his counterpart didn't see it that way.

"I think the question was not whether the shot was good, but whether the clock started on time," Milwaukee coach Terry Porter said. "It's irrelevant at this point."

After a three-minute review, the referees let the shot stand but reset the clock and brought the Magic back out for Francis' free throw. Francis intentionally missed the foul shot, and time expired.

Francis' heroics were needed because the Magic let a 15-point lead slip away. Milwaukee went up 85-81 with 6:27 remaining on four straight baskets, the first and last coming from Redd.

"I know there are no moral victories, but we played hard and that's a good sign for us," said Redd, who led five Bucks in double-figure scoring.

The teams then traded points until the end, with two ties and four lead changes before Francis' last shot.

"They made some plays, we made some plays," Porter said. "And they made the last play."

Hill made 10 of 21 shots in his first regular-season action since



Orlando Magic guard Steve Francis, left, scores the winning basket with 0.2 seconds left in the game as he is fouled by Milwaukee Bucks guard Maurice Williams in Orlando, Fla., on Wednesday night.

Jan. 16, 2003. After sitting out last season following the fourth operation on his left ankle, Hill was relieved to be critical of his game (four turnovers and only four rebounds) rather than his health.

"It was fun for me to be out there, fun for us to be out there and fun to get the win," said Hill, who played just his 48th game since joining the Magic before the 2000-01 season.

Injury-plagued Pacers hold off Cavs in double OT

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — They're limping. They're aching. They're wearing casts.

And somehow, the Indiana Pacers are 1-0. Ron Artest scored 31 points and Jamaal Tinsley added 15 points and 14 assists as the banged-up Pacers opened the season with a 109-104 double-overtime victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

After initially planning to rest his sore right knee, Artest decided to play shortly before tipoff, and then gave the Pacers everything he had, adding nine rebounds in 50 minutes.

"Twenty-five minutes before the game I wasn't playing," said Artest, who knew the Pacers couldn't afford to have him watch. "I wanted to play. I can play with pain."

Zydrunas Ilgauskas tied a career high with 35 points and added 18 rebounds. LeBron James added 28 points, eight assists and five rebounds for Cleveland, which was unable to take advantage of Indiana's injuries.

The Pacers were without starters Jermaine O'Neal (sore left foot), Reggie Miller (broken right hand) and Reggie Miller (hip surgery), as well as guard Anthony Johnson (broken right hand).

Three of them sat on Indiana's bench in street clothes, well-dressed and well-paid cheerleaders.

"This was a big win because we were without so many guys," Tinsley said. "But we stuck together and made things happen."

Austin Croshere added 20 points for Indiana and sank a crucial three-pointer with 54.6 seconds left in the second overtime to

put the Pacers ahead 105-102. After Fred Jones lost control of the ball, Croshere picked it up in the corner and made his three.

"It just rolled to me," said Croshere, who was then interrupted by Jones. "That was a pass, Cro," Jones joked.

The Cavaliers made two turnovers before pulling within a point on Trevor Raynor's two free throws with 13.9 seconds remaining.

Jones then hit two free throws to put Indiana up 107-104 with 12.1 seconds to go.

James, who forced overtime with a three-pointer late in regulation, was short on another three and Tinsley put it away by making two free throws with 4.8 seconds remaining.

James felt like the Cavaliers let one slip away.

"We didn't execute down the stretch," he said. "We gave up a lot of easy buckets. Too many turnovers, too many missed shots. It was just a tough loss."

Cleveland got only four points and six rebounds from Drew Gooden, who the Cavaliers are hoping can fill the void left by Carlos Boozer's departure as a free agent.

Timberwolves 99, Knicks 93: At Minneapolis, MVP Kevin Garnett had 28 points and 20 rebounds.

Latrell Sprewell had 10 points against his former team. Sam Cassell added 19 points and 11 assists for the Timberwolves. Stephen Marbury, also up against his old club, led the Knicks with 27 points.

76ers 98, Celtics 95: At Boston, Allen Iverson scored 30 points, five during an 11-0 fourth-quarter run when the '76ers took the lead. Former Celtics coach Jim O'Brien returned to Boston with the Sixers, and the World Series trophy made his first appearance at the FleetCenter.

But the Celtics, in Doc Rivers' debut, were unable to re-create the success of the Boston Red Sox — or even the Boston team O'Brien coached to the conference finals in 2002.

Paul Pierce had 35 points and 13 rebounds, but missed a three-pointer at the buzzer that could have tied it. Gary Payton, making his Boston debut, had six points and eight assists.

Wizards 103, Grizzlies 91: Antawn Jamison scored 34 points as Washington won in the first regular-season game at the new arena in Memphis.

Juan Dixon had 28 points and Jarvis Hayes added 20 points and nine rebounds for the Wizards, who outscored Memphis 32-11 in the third quarter to take control.

Bonzi Wells led Memphis with 19 points.

Mavericks 106, Hornets 91: Dirk Nowitzki, Michael Finley and Jerry Stackhouse helped visiting Dallas ruin Byron Scott's coaching debut with the Hornets.

All three scored 19 points, and Dallas had three other players reach double figures.

Baron Davis led the Hornets with 25 points, and Jamaal Magloire and David Wesley added 11 apiece.

Spurs 101, Kings 95: Tim Duncan scored 30 points and Brent Barry made three three-pointers in his debut with San Antonio.

Manu Ginobili finished with 24 points and Barry had 16 on 6-for-9 shooting. Duncan had 14 rebounds and Rasho Nesterovic added 12.

The Spurs improved to 8-0 in openers since Duncan joined the team in 1997.

Suns 112, Hawks 82: Amare Stoudemire had 18 of his 23 points in the first half, helping Phoenix win the opener for both teams.

Stoudemire also had eight rebounds and two blocked shots. Joe Johnson scored 17 and Steve Nash had 12 points in his Suns debut.

Jazz 104, Lakers 78: Carlos Boozer had 27 points and 11 rebounds in his Utah debut. Andrei Kirilenko added 16 points and eight blocks, and the Jazz opened the season with a record-setting rout of Los Angeles.

The Lakers made only 20 field goals, three fewer than the previous franchise low. Los Angeles shot 29 percent, also the worst in team history.

Matt Harper finished with 23 points and seven rebounds and Keith McLeod had eight assists — one more than the Lakers — in his first NBA start.

Kobe Bryant led Los Angeles with 38 points, but Lamar Odom, with 14, was the only other Lakers player in double figures.

Trail Blazers 78, Warriors 75: Nick Van Exel scored 13 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to help Portland beat his former team.

Mo Dunleavy missed two three-pointers in the final seven seconds, including one at the buzzer, spoiling the NBA debut of Warriors coach Mike Montgomery.

Shaheed Abdul-Rahim added 18 points, five rebounds and four assists for the Blazers.

Clippers 114, SuperSonics 84: Bobby Simmons scored a career-high 30 points and host Los Angeles routed Seattle to win its opener for the first time in eight years.

The victory also was the most lopsided in an opener in franchise history for the Clippers. The previous largest margin in an opener was a 133-112 over Milwaukee in 1976, when the Clippers were the Buffalo Braves.

Rashard Lewis had 24 for Seattle.

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SPORTS



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Injured O'Neal big in debut

In Mourning's first game since kidney transplant, he can't contain Heat's 'massive' new center

BY TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The greatest center in Miami history isn't sure that adding Shaquille O'Neal to the Heat lineup makes them a sure thing for the NBA Finals.

To be blunt, Alonzo Mourning thinks a good team can beat the Heat if they can get O'Neal in foul trouble.

The problem for Mourning is that he plays for the New Jersey Nets, a team that was decimated by offseason moves.

O'Neal toyed with Mourning and his mates on Wednesday night in his Heat regular-season debut, shooting 7-for-9 from the field for 16 points in a 100-77 win.

The contest also marked Mourning's first official game since getting a kidney transplant in December.

"It's a good team, but they are vulnerable, they are very vulnerable," Mourning said of the Heat, who reached the Eastern Conference semifinals last year.

Mourning, who spent seven seasons in Miami, insisted a good defensive team could shut down the shooters and the driving lane and give the Heat major problems.

"It's just a matter of approaching the game a little bit better defensively, but they are definitely vulnerable," Mourning said. "When the big fella goes out they rely on jump shooters and Dwyane Wade's penetration."

O'Neal, acquired from the Lakers in the offseason for three starters and a first-round draft pick, was limited to 21 minutes by a hamstring injury that made his availability a game-time decision.

His best stretch came early in the fourth quarter when he bul-

lied his way past Mourning for three baskets inside.

On one series, O'Neal caught the ball deep in the low post, used his oversized posterior to bump Mourning out of the way, then dropped in a layup with no one else around.

On his next trip downtown, O'Neal freed himself with a shove to the back that the referees didn't see before knocking down a short jump hook.

Moments later, O'Neal got the ball in the low left block and hit a 10-foot baseline turnaround over Mourning for an 83-60 lead.

"It was one-on-one coverage, and I don't know anybody in this league that can guard him one on one," said Mourning, who finished with seven points, five rebounds and four fouls in 14 minutes. "I don't care if he has a pulled hamstring or he is slow — the man is big. He is a massive individual."

O'Neal had help against the Nets. Wade had 21 points, six assists and five rebounds. Udonis Haslem had 18 points, Rasual Butler 16, Damon Jones 15 and Eddie Jones 10.

Richard Jefferson had 19 points and Zoran Planinic came off the bench to add 11 for New Jersey, which looked nothing like the team that went to the NBA Finals in 2002 and '03 and the second round last year, losing to eventual NBA champion Detroit.

In the offseason, All-Star forward Kenyon Martin was traded to Denver and starting shooting guard Kerry Kittles was shipped to the Clippers. All-Star point guard Jason Kidd is starting the season on the injured list after knee surgery in July.

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Heat center Shaquille O'Neal looks to make a move against Nets center Alonzo Mourning during the third quarter. Despite a hamstring injury, O'Neal made a successful debut for Miami, scoring 16 points.



Randolph heads across town to manage Mets; Manuel hired by Phillies

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Woods emerges from honeymoon to play in Tour Championship

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Southern Cal, Oklahoma taking final road tests of season

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Spurrier withdraws from Florida coaching search

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